Race Problem - 1915
Africa

LIBERIA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

La Marquise de Fontenoy, whose resources of inside diplomatic information are exceptionally good, says that the Liberians have been making themselves obnoxious to England and France by permitting the Germans to use their territory as a base for operations. She also reports that Sir Harry Johnston came to Washington six years ago to sound the government as to its attitude toward a possible annexation of Liberia. He was given to understand, the marquise has heard, that we had no disposition to extend the Monroe doctrine into Africa, and, though sympathetic with the attempt represented by Liberia to establish a Negro republic, would not consider intervention to protect the experiment.

There hardly can be doubt that this expresses the attitude of the Taft administration and it is, if possible, even more likely to be the policy of the Wilson administration. If there be any tendency to mount Uncle Sam on Rosinante at this time there is, at any rate, none to select for him a dusky Dulcinea.

Liberia was founded by Negroes from the United States in 1822. If we may accept reports, less progress has been made after nearly a century than in many purely Negro communities of the south. At any rate, conditions there, unless we are misinformed, are not such as to inflame us with a desire to defend Liberia from absorption by England or any other power that has the ability and desire to do the absorbing.

It might not be unserviceable to take this position publicly at the first opportunity, for the sake of a precedent to be followed, say, in the case of the Philippines. If the Filipino is determined to enjoy the privileges of independence let him understand that he must accept its responsibilities also. The notion that we are in some way bound to defend an independent Philippine government is happily weakening. The quicker it is wholly disposed of the better for all concerned.

The foregoing editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune of 14. The editorial is open to serious objections not ndertakes to discuss great international questions initely informed, but as well because it lacks the or justice and freedom and indorses the baleful ight makes right." That such an editorial should Tribune, known throughout the world for fairplay is a great surprise to many of its readers. It is not say that information concerning Liberia from English ources, for at least 25 years, has been colored by the ire of these powers to secure complete possession of ory. Beginning in 1883 and ending in 1912, England turn have deprived Liberia of one strip of valuable her, with manufactured pretexts more plausible than proposed for Liberian absorption. La Marquise de r Harry Johnston, nor any other of the political or commercial representatives of either England or France can be relied upon to give the facts in the Liberian situation as they really are. The editorial not only indorses old diplomatic ruses, that have long ago been worn out in Monrovia in securing the Liberian lands already obtained, but it falls down on its information as to the attitude of the Taft administration toward Liberia. The editor is likewise mistaken as to the establishment of Liberia, which instead of being founded by Negroes, was established by the people of the United States of America, through the American Colonization Society and the American Government. It is equally open to objection because it attempts to compare Liberia with what he calls purely Negro communities in the south. And in so far as the editor indorses the absorption of Liberia because of what he considers the conditions are in that country, it is very evident that more knowledge on the subject would have added very materially to the value of the discussion.

THE KRU WAR.

(*Buchanan Liberia African League.*)

Again the people are annoyed with another Kru war in Liberia. It has actually begun in Sinoe. It began on the 12th ult. The Government has been very tolerant with the Kru people. It is hard to see what more can be done to keep in peace with them, but to hand them over the reins of Government and let them administer it. In 1909 the trouble began with the Krus, and every year thereafter it was trouble with Kru people except in 1914. They threaten the existence of the people from year to year, having the people keep watch nightly; they disturb the quietness and peace of the people ever and anon. And the Government simply attempts in a quiet way to persuade them to be good. Major Ballard went to Rockcess and fought them to bring them to terms, and barely escaped with his life. Captain Steward, shot almost to death by them; and Major Young went down there later and persuaded them to come and go with him to Monrovia and let peace be restored. So they did, that is, the Rockcess Krus. And peace was declared by the Government with the Krus again. But the great head of that tribe of the Krus was at their Capital at Pickaninnycess, where they did not have any thing to do with the peace terms, and hence, apparently repudiated it and killed Doe Johnson, the Government's man about six months later, and have sworn to catch other loyal Krus as soon as possible, and throw them in the water, so the friendly Krus say.

Along in July, probably, the Carbors and Bwatar tribes of the Krus who have been fighting war among themselves for nearly a half century, it is said, have made friends and have agreed now to make war against the Americo-Liberians; they have one word to that effect. That news was recently dispatched to Bassa from Sinoe, and soon after that the war commenced in Sinoe, and it has since been threatened in Bassa, in harmony with the rumors of the plan to carry the war all along the coast as far up as Little Bassa. It seems to be a general confederacy of the Krus.

About the 10th of September, the Krus were taking away their women from Timbo to Rockcess, and they whispered as the cause, that the Krus would bring war on the whole coast, and of course at Timbo. And on the night of the 22nd they went back to Timbo and fired two medicine or war guns.

There is a general unrest; some are saying that they have been threatened with war so many times by the Krus; that they want the war to come at once and let it be finished. The more sober minds say let peace abide as long as possible. On the night of the 21st ult. a Kruman and woman got a slight wound, it appears, from the effect of a bullet from a gun of some of the watchers. This was condemned by the men who stand for justice and order, and those charged have been arrested and are now out on bond.

They have since been re-arrested on the charge of treason, so they named the shooting, coupled with some other threats, but the J. P. could not see treason in any of them except one man Logan, and many say that there is not a shadow of treason in the act that Logan is charged with, that he is simply held to appease the matter of a few men. Of course Logan did not quietly surrender himself to the ministerial officers when they wanted him as the other young men did, and the Sheriff took a posse with him to get Logan.

The manner of bringing this posse has made a little sectional strife, because some of the men in lower Buchanan say that it was done in a way to infer that there were no loyal men in Lower Buchanan, whereas, Mr. J. E. Smith, of Lower Buchanan, says he offered his service to go and arrest Logan with six men of Lower Buchanan but the service was not accepted. On the other hand the Sheriff declares that his action was prompted by the officer of the state who resides in Lower Buchanan. At any rate the man was arrested, and a Lower Buchanan man led the van, and peace prevails, and Logan with the other men to stand their trials like men.

But the war still prevails in Sinoe, and no reliable information has thus far been received.

BISHOP SCOTT WRITES OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS

The following very interesting letter comes to THE AGE from Bishop Isaac B. Scott of the M. E. Church, who has later returned to Africa. Headquarters at Monrovia, Liberia, after a visit to the United States. Bishop Scott's letter contains some interesting information about the boat and people which Chief Sam took away from this country last year.

The new York Age 4/29/15

Bishop Scott's Letter.

To the editor of The Age:

I came from the States to Monrovia, Liberia, without any serious mishap and find the Americans of Liberia pegging away as usual. Liberia herself is experimenting very trying times and she feels the effect of the war almost as keenly as though she were a participant. The revenue derived from the Import and Export duties constitutes the principal support of the government and both these have been seriously crippled by the European war. Many of the officials have not been paid for months. In times of peace the German steamers literally swarmed on the West Coast of Africa and Liberia not only felt the influence of the cargo boats but the best German passenger steamers called at Monrovia regularly on their trips outward and homeward. Then, while we did not have as many English as German steamers still there were a goodly number. Many of these two classes of steamers brought cargo from Europe and on their homeward trip were loaded with palm-oil, fibre, mahogany, coffee, and whatever else the traders had gathered from the natives of the bush or the civilized farmer. As matters now stand it is extremely refreshing to get to see a steamer at all and the party who leaves one port of the coast to visit another can have no definite idea when he will be able to return. Not only is this the case, but a more serious feature is that it is difficult to send mail to, or receive mail from, other parts of the civilized world.

The food problem is a serious one, for while it is evident that our farmers are more diligent in their line of business than for many years, it is nevertheless a fact that we are compelled to import from the outside world many things we eat that are not produced here.

Chief Sam in Africa.

I am sure your readers will be interested to learn something of Chief Sam in his trip from America to his destination in Africa. After crossing the ocean, although his steamer was flying the English flag, he was captured by an English cruiser and taken to Sierraleone as a prize of war. Here after considerable delay and annoyance, by the assistance of interested friends, his steamer was released and eventually continued her trip along the West Coast of Africa. While in Sierraleone he held a mass meeting in the public hall of the city which was attended by a number of prominent citizens and a large concourse of people generally. The purpose of the meeting seems to have been to secure subscribers to the stock of his Company

and to enable him to enlarge the scope of usefulness of the same. It would seem that some highly interesting and instructive addresses were delivered, but as far as I know, no money was secured. Freetown, Sierraleone, is a large city and the descendants of the original Sierraleonians have proven themselves shrewd traders and not a few of them good business men. I include the women as I dare say there are at least as many of them traders as men. Many of these people grew wealthy and most of the valuable property of Freetown is owned by them.

The principal weakness of the Sierraleone traders is that they are afraid of each other. And I mean exactly what I say, for they are that afraid of each other in a business way that I do not recall any business firm among them in which two or more are cooperating. Every person seems to stand for himself and live in a world of his own. This may to some extent be the result of their superstition, for I believe I am neither unfair nor uncharitable when I say they are the most superstitious people I ever saw.

When it comes to trade I consider them the "black Jews" of the West Coast but the lack of co-operation is telling on them very emphatically at this time. In recent years there has been an immense influx of Syrians into Freetown and one cannot help but notice that many of the small shops hitherto occupied by Sierraleone traders have changed hands. I took a long walk out Kissey Road, a street on which there are scores of these small shops and I saw so many of them occupied by Syrian traders that I was lead to ask why Sierraleonians were vacating them. I was told that Syrians undersold the Sierraleonians and thereby forced them out of business. And when I asked why the Syrians were able to sell cheaper I was told that they combined their capital to buy goods, and purchased a large quantity of supplies at a cheaper rate, while each little Sierraleonian trader buys for himself. If I dared take your space to cite other instances I could tell of other parts of the West Coast where the black man is being forced out of business in his home-country.

Bishop Heard's African Boat.

I am sure there are many of your readers who will be glad to know that the mission launch secured by Bishop Heard of the African Methodist Episcopal Church has already arrived and is in constant service. When I landed here, February 12, I was in a great hurry to go up the St. Paul River about 25 miles in order to reach the place where the Liberia annual conference was being held. Through the courtesy of Bishop Heard I took his launch and made the run in about two hours and one half. In providing this launch the A. M. E. Church has relieved him of that degree of strain and exposure that will make it easier for him to do his work and, I think, prolong his life for a number of years. I ought to say too, that Bishop S. D. Ferguson of the Protestant Episcopal Church has been extremely courteous to me from time to time in allowing me to use his launch on easy conditions.

Though about three days late in reaching the Liberia Conference I was in time to receive the class into full connection, ordain the men, make the appointments, and do a large amount of minute business. Dr. W. T. Hagan, who presided for me had received most of the reports. I feel very sure you will be pleased to know that this body is still advancing along various essential lines. The membership which is now 10,959 is more than three times what it was when I came here eleven years ago and the Conference collections which this year amounted to $1,597 were then $203. The candidates who desire to go as delegates to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1916 have already begun to make known the fact to their brethren and to inform them how well fitted they are for the responsibilities of such a position.

I. B. SCOTT.

Monrovia, Liberia, Africa.

NO STARVATION IN LIBERIA

Dear Editor—Please allow me space in the columns of your paper to say a few words, referring to an assertion made in regards to the inhabitants of Liberia facing starvation.

I saw an account in the Voice of Missions, a clipping from the Washington Herald stating, "The American Residents and Natives Face Starvation in Liberia". In regards to this statement, I will say, I am a farmer and a citizen, and have lived in Liberia 47 years, but I have never known the time when conditions were more favorable than they are now. Although the citizens who are employed by the Government and depend upon it for support may feel the effect of the war, but the farmers, and the natives in the interior are little concerned about starvation.

We do not say that the war has not effected Liberia in some way; according to reports its effect is felt world-wide. We do not get flour nor sugar. This may be an inconvenience, but not essential to suffering, and should the war continue for many years longer, we are not liable to suffer for want of food so long as conditions are as they are now. The following are products common to Liberia, such bread stuff as cassada, edoes, potatoes yams, bread-fruit, rice and corn. Meats are common to those in the U. S. A. The palm tree produces the palm-nuts and from this we obtain the palmoil, this is used for cooking. The plamtree produces the palm cabbage and this is acknowledged by many to be better than the cabbages raised in the U. S. A. Under the heading of fruits; are oranges, pineapples, bananas, plantain and guavas; sugarcane is raised also by very little effort.

In September when I attended the Legislature at Monrovia, I wrote to Bassa county inquiring whether there was any rice to be found, the reply came stating the interior was stocked with rice. In Montsserado county the natives brought thousands of crucs of rice from the interior and sold to the merchants along the coast.

The effect of this war has placed Liberia in a position to know the possibilities of her own strength. I will say to the friends who are alarmed about us, we thank you for your sympathy but under the present circumstances if any starve it will be because "He that will not work shall not eat." A. C. Reeves—African League.

LIBERIA WILL IMPORT AND PAY FOR PRODUCTS

In Need of Food Stuffs because European Trade Is Crippled by War

LIBERAL CASH PRICE PAID

President Howard Is of Opinion that American Merchants Would Make Good Profit by Exchanging Food Products for Liberian Products.

The New York Age 3/6/15

SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK AGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 3.—Liberia, according to a report of the Department of Commerce and Labor, is more than anxious to import food and other products from the United States in exchange for its staple products. It is willing to pay cash prices for sugar, meat and flour, which have increased more than 300 per cent. in price since the outbreak of the European war.

Owing to war conditions, Liberia's trade with Germany and France has stopped and that with England crippled. That means that many of the needed supplies which that country has hitherto received from these countries are now lacking. English ships have brought small quantities of supplies, but have carried nothing away from Liberia but the mail.

Rice and Fish on Hand.

President D. E. Howard, of Liberia, in a recent letter to Dr. Ernest Lyon, the Liberian consul-general to the United States, pointed out that there were sufficient quantities of rice and fresh fish on hand, but that other foods were needed, and that the Liberians were ready to pay a fair price for the same. He ventured the opinion that merchants in this country would reap satisfactory products by exchanging commodities. Dr. George W. Buckner, the American minister and consul-general at Monrovia, has been urged to bring the possibilities of trade with Liberia to the attention of merchants of this country.

Dr. Lyon has repeatedly brought to the attention of the State Department and the Department of Commerce and Labor the great possibilities that trade with that country had for enterprising Americans. He also recommended that a ship be loaded with supplies and sent there.

LIBERIA ASKS BANK TO APPLY MORATORIUM

Dr. Booker T. Washington and Dr Ernest Lyon, the Liberian consul general to the United States, had a conference with representatives of the National City Bank last Thursday regarding a moratorium for Liberia. During the Taft administration Liberia floated a loan of $1,700,000, and the National City Bank was the fiscal agent therefor. Reed Paige Clark of this country was appointed collector of customs through the influence of those who hold the bonds for the loan.

The interest on the loan has been promptly met. The present European war has greatly curtailed Liberian imports, thereby decreasing the customs receipts. While the interest has been promptly met to date, Liberia, by reason of losses due to the European war, is sadly in need of funds for its domestic expenses.

Drs. Washington and Lyon received the most respectful consideration by the officials of the bank, but it is said they were told that only the bondholders could grant the relief asked.

Dr. George W. Buckner, United States minister to Liberia, has returned to his home in Evansville, Ind., where he will enjoy a furlough of sixty days. He says that Liberia is being affected by the great war now being waged in Europe. In normal times this exporting is done by British and German ships which, of course, is greatly reduced owing to the possible dangers at sea. Other reports coming from that country have been to the effect that there is no danger of starvation, and because the country is self-sustaining. Commerce has been injured. Lack of employment among those laborers engaged on the docks and along the coast is noticed, thus making for stringent times in the little republic. This war is leaving many unpleasant reminders, quite enough to put a ban on the business for many a year.

U. S. TO HELP LIBERIA.

Cruiser Sent After Complaints of Violated Neutrality.

A despatch from Washington published yesterday told of the sending of the United States scout cruiser Chester to Liberia. Officers of the vessel will investigate the situation there. The Governments of Great Britain, France and Germany have made repeated complaints of violations of neutrality by wireless stations on the Liberian coast.

The United States has exercised a sort of guardianship over Liberia since 1910. In 1910 an American commission went there to investigate conditions, after a request from the little republic for aid in straightening out its difficulties. With a British colony on one side, a French colony on another and her trade largely in the hands of Germans, Liberia had been involved in frequent boundary disputes and had become financially embarrassed.

The United States, with the approval of Great Britain, France and Germany, has tried to solve the republic's problems. The frontier police force was organized by United States military officers.

Cincinnati, O.

NEGROES ARE AFRAID

European War Will Result in Extinction of Liberia.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE ENQUIRER.

Washington, March 1.—Liberia, a republic on the west coast of Africa, is afraid it will be abolished as a result of the European war.

Negroes of prominence in the United States have started a movement to induce Congress to secure for the Liberians another territory where they may continue their experience of self-government in case the country they now have meets the fate of extinction.

The first appeal to Congress along this line came from the Afro-American League, of Nashville, through its Secretary, George W. Tanner.

Because American negroes will not emigrate to Liberia, proceedings were begun in Baltimore to end the trust created by Mrs. Caroline Donovan in 1822 for the American Colonization Society. The estate is valued at $60,000. The petition says the transportation of negroes to Liberia has ended, and that the society found it difficult to get emigrants. Even in time of slavery emigration was never popular, and not more than 16,000 migrated during the whole history of the society.

Race Problem – 1915
Africa.

ABANDONING LIBERIA.

IN THE MINDS OF MANY the fate of Liberia hangs in the balance, and the war, while not primarily the cause has much to do with the situation. La Marquise de Fontenoy is responsible for the statement that the Liberians have been making themselves obnoxious to England and France by permitting the Germans to use their territory as a base for operations. She also reports that Sir Harry Johnston came to Washington six years ago to sound the government as to its attitude toward a possible annexation of Liberia. He was given to understand that there was no disposition to extend the Monroe doctrine into Africa, and, though sympathetic with the attempt represented by Liberia to establish a republic, would not consider intervention to protect the experiment. Liberia was founded in 1822 by free Afro-Americans, Paul Cuffe taking in his ship "Elizabeth" the first load of eighty people gathered from Pennsylvania, New York and several of the New England States. The American Colonization Society was formed and through their endeavors large numbers were sent to the new colony. As might be expected of any new movement planned on such a large scale, there were many serious drawbacks. The aid that was expected and should have been forthcoming from this government, was withheld and they were compelled unprepared as they were, to shift for themselves. The usual thing happened, powerful countries came in and demanded a strip of land here and there, forced their ideas and policies on the defenseless people, appropriated all they dared of value and carried things on in such a high hand, that it seemed evident that they must have had an understanding with the United States not to interfere and in return they would not interfere with the United States in their policies with Latin America. Mark you, Liberians, too, are nothing more or less than American citizens. What a storm of protest would be raised against the interference of foreign powers were these same citizens white. If the people of Liberia were given the financial support they deserve, they would be the marvels of the age. The climate is ideal, the country abounds in minerals of all descriptions, precious woods, the soil is fertile and productive, 28 beautiful rivers plentifully stocked with fish are there and the shipping facilities are unsurpassed. This is the place that prejudice is making the United States government abandon. The Monroe doctrine can be interpreted to fit any case those in authority see fit to have it. And if those who believe in our form of government should suffer Liberia to be swallowed up by other powers they would be traitors to the Republican principles of government.

The Christian Advocate 2/20/15

A Methodist Republic

J. E. Crowther

Southwestern Christian Advocate 12/3/15

It has the distinction of being a black republic, and the only republic on the African Continent. It is situated between Sierra Leone on the west and the French Gold Coast on the east, on what has been picturesquely described as the rottonest coast in the world, the West Coast of Africa. From my brief visit to this coast, I should conclude that the latter epithet has reference not so much to its climate as to the decayed and putrid morals of many of the white men who make it their habitat. This condition is one of the chief factors in the "black man's burden."

In 1818, Samuel J. Mills of "Haystack prayer meeting" fame, was sent by the newly founded American Colonization Society to the West Coast of Africa to select a suitable location for the colonization of American freed slaves. He, in company with three others, reached Sherbro Island, on the coast of Sierra Leone on the first of April and decided to found the settlement there. On the return voyage Mills died. Subsequently the settlement was transferred to the present site of Monrovia, in Liberia.

The first shipment of colonists took place in February, 1820, on the good ship "Elizabeth" from New York. The "Elizabeth" was the "Mayflower' 'of the black republic. Among the eighty-eight emigrants was one Elijah Johnson, a Methodist preacher and a most extraordinary man. While crossing the Atlantic he organized the first Methodist Episcopal Church of Liberia. He was one of the founders of the colony where the city of Monrovia now stands, and rendered valiant service in preventing its early extirpation. In the public square facing the executive mansion and adjoining the House of Representatives is a monument erected to perpetuate the memory of this truly great man. His son, Hilary Richard Wright John son, born in Africa, became president of the republic in 1884, and served for years. He was the first "native son" to be elected to the presidency. The grandson of Elijah Johnson is the distinguished associate justice of the supreme court, F. E. R. Johnson, an official member of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Monrovia, and one of the most gifted men in the republic.

The history of Liberia is interwoven with that of the foreign missionary enterprise of the Methodist Episcopal Church. In the cemetery at Monrovia are the graves of many of its early missionaries, including that of the Rev. Melville Beveridge Cox, the first missionary to be commissioned by our Church. There is no more thrilling story in the annals of Methodism than that which records the endeavors of her noble sons, ministerial and lay, who gave their lives to establish on the African Continent a republic where the black man might have an opportunity for self-governance.

The place of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this republic is, however the more conspicuous when one reviews the personnel of its present official life. His excellency President D. E. Howard, is an official member and class leader in our Church in Monrovia. He has spent more than half of his fifty-two years in official life, and for many years has been the most dominant factor in the political affairs of the republic. In 1891 he married the daughter of Dr. W. T. Hagan, a veteran Methodist preacher in the Liberia Conference. She is not only a charming lady and a devoted mother, but also a wise and effective adviser to her husband in his political affairs. To make a long story short, this black Napoleon abrogated his position as "maker of presidents" in favor of Mrs. Howard, and she had him elected.

That so large a proportion of the public officers are identified with the Methodist Episcopal Church is in no wise due to the denominational affiliation of the president, but rather to the fact that so many of the leading citizens of the republic belong to our Church family. The president's private secretary is a former Methodist missionary. The secretaries of the treasury, the interior, public instruction the commissioner of internal revenue the auditor-general and public surveyor are officially identified with Liberian Methodism. So also the associate justice of the supreme court, the district and the county attorney, the circuit judge and three judges of the monthly probate court. Our people are found in the Senate and the House of Representatives and are commissioned for the supervision of education, native African affairs, land, elections, and the interior. The mayor of Monrovia is a Methodistt and also three of the four county superintendents in Liberia. They are found in the treasury and post office departments and hold commissions in Liberia's small but effective frontier force.

In fact, if the Methodist folk were to be transported from Liberia there would scarcely be enough trained public men left to run the government.

After more than four-score years of missionary endeavor in Liberia we have a missionary force of seventeen persons, including missionaries' wives, five of whom are absent from the field for health reasons. That leaves a dozen folks to occupy a territory as large as Kentucky, and without transportation facilities. The educational equipment is a reproach to Methodism. The buildings are wholly inadequate. In a room twenty feet square, which serves as chapel in the College of West Africa, four classes are taught throughout the entire day simultaneously. The staff is undermanned. Teachers have classes through every period of the day; some classes are held before breakfast, during lunch hour, and after school hours. Imagine one teacher teaching first and second year geometry classes simultaneously. Imagine if you can a "college" without a single piece of scientific equipment. The buildings are thoroughly disreputable.

Missionaries in British Gambia and in Sierra Leone expressed to the writer their conviction that Liberia presents the greatest missionary opportunity on the west coast. But this opportunity will not be ours forever. Already whole tribes have been indoctrinated with the Moslem faith. Mohammedans are everywhere. Just across the river from Monrovia is a Moslem village and mosque. Meanwhile we are appropriating less money for missionary work in Liberia than the budget of some single Churches in America. How long shall we continue this policy? The voice of our heroic dead calls us to "go in and possess the good land, for we are well able."

Monrovia, Liberia.

An Opportunity for Service.

The European war bulks so large in the world's imagination that matters that would at other times have arrested attention now go unheeded. One of these is brought to mind by Professor Frederick Starr of the Chicago University. Liberia, the little Negro Republic on the western coast of Africa, though fraught with great possibilities, and a special charge of this country, has not received as much assistance as would be met by the price of a battleship, nor as much attention as is devoted to the burial of a Congressman. And the war has multiplied Liberia's troubles. Professor Starr has undertaken to acquaint the American public with the Negro Republic's needs; and to show our government its opportunity.

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Liberia is the only spot in Africa where the Negro enjoys citizenship in his own country. It is the only place on the Dark Continent where the Negro can consider himself a man in his own right. The country embraces 40,000 square miles, or a trifle less than Ohio, and has a population of 1,500,000 to 2,100,000, fifty thousand of whom are given by the Statesman's Year Book as civilized. Its government, modeled after our own, is entirely in the hands of Negroes. Little manufacturing is done, owing to the lack of capital; practically all the exports are raw materials, which accounts for the hardships resulting from the war.

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The first settlement was made in 1822, but it was not until July 26, 1847, that the State was constituted as the Free and Independent Republic of Liberia. Here a small handful of civilized Negroes have held aloft the torch of hope for their native brethren. The degree of their success seems to be a matter of opinion dependent upon the point of view. Charles Francis Adams was pessimistic; Mr. Starr is decidedly optimistic. But, Professor Starr insists, the Republic must have help from without, or it will perish. Unless the percentage of the civilized in its population can be increased, and the country made to grow in wealth, the French to the east, and the English to the north will find some excuse for dividing its territory between them. What the country most needs, Professor Starr says, is closer touch with the United States. Just as the native Africans are benefited by coming in contact with the civilized Negroes of Liberia, so the latter would be encouraged if in more constant communication with members of their race in the United States. Matters were a little better before the present war. York to Liberia every two months; but since that was discontinued, communication is by way of Europe. American Negroes who might otherwise go there to visit or to settle, are deterred by the expense and time consumed in this roundabout way.

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Since the United States is largely responsible for the Liberian experiment, and has stood sponsor for it among the nations, there appears to be little reason why some substantial assistance should not at this time be given the Republic. To maintain a ship running direct from New York to Liberia would require little in addition to her own earnings, and that little might well be contributed by our government in the interest of civilization. A small part of the sum expended upon Cuba and the Philippines would place the little Republic on its feet. Here is an opportunity to cast an anchor to windward. The price of a battleship will save a country. Shall we put the money in the battleship or in the merchant ship?

DAYTON, OHIO

SEP 4 1915

A COLONY THAT FAILED.

A tourist who has lately returned from Liberia contributes an article to one of the magazines concerning the failure of the colony of negroes who went to that country many years ago, from the United States. It is an old story, and affords no new light upon the subject, but it is worth while recalling the ill-starred venture of a little band of enthusiasts, at this time, when the world is thinking so much of colonization.

Collections were taken up all over the United States for the purpose of enabling all the colored people who wanted to return to Africa, to do so. Land was provided in Liberia, and several hundred negroes sailed for the place. They were encouraged by the government at first—in fact the government looked after them n a way for some time—but despite everything that ould be done for them fr... this distance, the colony vas a miserable failure. Some of the colonists made heir way back to this country, but most of them rooped and died from home sickness. None of them rospered. The climate did not suit them, the people ith whom they came into contact did not lik them, nd failure was written all over the project fr m the eginning. Today there is little trace of the co ny, as riginally constituted, although there are still me of ie descendants of the colonists still living in ie coun- y. And the agitation for the negroes to go back to frica, although having a few advocates in this coun- ry has abated. The negroes seem stisfied here, and nly a few of the race are still talking about coloniza- ion in Africa.

100,000 HOMES OUGHT TO HAVE

The Presidents of Liberia

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THOS. H. B. WALKER,

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Race Problem - 1915

Africa

RUMORS ABOUT LIBERIA WRONG

The New York Age 11/25/15

Widely Circulated Statements Concerning Negro Republic Are Unfounded

AMERICANS SATISFIED

American Army Officers Employed on Frontier Police Force Giving Good and Efficient Service—Major Young Popular.

LIBERIAN AGENT EXPLAINS

Dr. Ernest Lyon, Liberian Consul-General in Interview With Age Representative, Ventilates the Falsity of Rumors Put in Circulation from Inimical Diplomatic Sources.

Dr. Ernest Lyon, Liberian Consul General for the United States was in New York during the week on official business in relation to Liberian finances with the banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Company.

In answer to a reporter of THE AGE, who called upon him at his hotel, he admitted that he was at the State Department in Washington on Friday last in conference with the department authorities on several important matters touching the future of Liberia.

"One matter" said Dr. Lyon, "was to correct false rumors current in London as reported by Minister Crommelin, that there were native uprisings in the interior of the Republic. That there was dissatisfaction among the American army officers in the frontier police force, and that T. McCauls Stewart had been removed from the supreme court bench for political reasons.

"These rumors, it seems, were circulated by parties unfriendly to the Republic and are without foundation. The object for the circulation is well known in diplomatic circles. The effect, if allowed to remain uncorrected must result in injury to the state. The government of Liberia is justified, therefore, in correcting the erroneous impression created by these constant rumors circulated with libelous intent.

American Army Officers Satisfied.

"No, there is no internal trouble. The interior is quiet. The thing that gave rise to the rumor of an uprising, was the cold-blooded murder of one of the allied chiefs of the Republic, whose murderer the government is making every effort to overtake and punish.

"As to dissatisfaction among the American army officers employed by the Liberian government in the frontier police force there is none. The State Department at Washington, which should rightly be in possession of such facts if there were any, have none. Captain Bullard is coming home of his own volition. Major Young, the American military attache to the legation, and who has acted in an advisory capacity to the war department is held in high repute with the government and is honored and respected by all the people of the nation.

"The incident of the removal of T. McCauls Stewart from the supreme court bench is purely a matter of internal regulation with which no foreign state can have anything to do. The rumor was abroad that the government at Washington would approach the Liberian government with a view to his reinstatement. Although none versed in international affairs would give any credence to such a report, nevertheless, its effect on Liberia, growing out of an interview between the American Minister Resident, and the Liberian secretary of state, justified the Liberian government through its diplomatic agent in the United States to ascertain the attitude of the United States on the premises.

Assurances from Washington.

"Upon this subject, I am assured by the authorities at Washington that its attitude and relation in this particular incident was misinterpreted. It has never been the intention or purpose of the government at Washington to interfere with the domestic affairs of the republic; and therefore any suggestions looking to the reinstatement of the justice is unthinkable from the view point of diplomacy and international decorum.

"The incident of the removal having been pretty widely circulated in the United States brought a number of inquiries to the state department. The department in order that it might be posted, if it cared to answer the enquirers instructed the Minister Resident at Monrovia in an informal way common in the realms of diplomacy to get the facts. That is all there is to it. Liberia regards the United States as her best friend, and is always willing and ready to ask and to accept advice and counsel; but as a sovereign state, would be compelled to ignore any interference that would tend to embarass her in the conduct of her domestic affairs. I am glad of this interview for the benefit of the readers of your great journal."

AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE REMOVED

The New York Sunday Times 11/24/15

Several weeks ago we called attention to the removal from the bench of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia, Africa, Associate Justice McCants Stewart. The action appeared so summary and dangerous as a precedent that we concluded to call attention to it at another time when we were fully advised as to the particulars. Since that time the African League, a Liberian publication, has reached this office. It throws light on the subject, and which, as we view it, is not helpful to the little republic.

We have no special interest in the controversy; and it has reached a state of controversy, the article appearing headed, "The Court Must Decide" in the African publication. While we are not especially interested yet there are reasons why the case is of more than passing interest to the Negroes of this country, also to many white people who have been the mainstay of that country. Liberia shines by a borrowed light. If there were no America there would be no Liberia. Our country has been paternal in the utmost sense, conceiving and booming the African republic, and since which time we have watched and nursed its growth.

Liberia is supposed to reflect our own government as to form. It is nearly a fac simile, and because of which we are proud of it as a parent should be when seeing his own indorsed as his own through similarly. This means that its institutions are as staid as our own; that capriciousness is not statecraft; that institutions gather sanction as time advances. Courts are respected institutions in our land. The very Supreme Court has dignity and place unassailable—well nigh sacred. If the courts could be pictured as ancient temples the Supreme Court would be the sanctum sanctorium. Religious care is exercised when men are selected for that bench. We think of their selection much like we think of the selection and ordination of men for the bishopric, as popes are called from the cardinalate, and which candidates approach their high offices with fear and trembling, and as it should be in attest of the knowledge of the burden of responsibility.

That a state is small does not lessen the nature of the office. Perhaps we wrong the little country when we say that it has struck at its own stability when it decided to remove a justice of its Supreme Court without cause. If there was cause it is not made apparent. Mr. McCants Stewart was formerly of New York, and was well known throughout the states. This fact does not help the status of the situation, nor does it hurt, we should think.

The removed justice keenly feels the action of the Liberian Congress, this, we think, because he knows what it means to be a supreme court justice, and also what it means for a supreme court of justice to be dismissed from office. In his complaint he says when writing to a friend:

1. I have been, as you know and as the records show, Associate Justice without dispute from the month of February, A. D., 1911, to October 29, 1914.

2. On said October 29, 1914, without any notice having been given me and without allowing any information to reach the public prior to October 27, 1914, that my removal from office was under consideration by the Legislative and executive branches of the government, I was served by the President with notice of removal from the office of Associate Justice of this court, the following being a true copy of the contents thereof, towit:

Executive Mansion,
Monrovia, Liberia, October 29, 1914.

Honorable T. McCants Stewart,
Associate Justice Supreme Court, R. L.
Monrovia.

Sir:—I have the honor to inform you that you are hereby removed from the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia in keping with a joint resolution of the Legislature passed at their present session, a copy of which is herewith enclosed.

Your obedient servant,
D. E. HOWARD,
President R. L.

Joint resolution removing T. McCants Stewart, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, from office:

It is enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Republic of Liberia in Legislature assembled:

Section 1. That from and immediately after the passage of this joint resolution the president is hereby authorized and directed to remove T. McCants Stewart, Associate Justice of Supreme Court of the Republic of Liberia, from office, and appoint another in his stead.

Any law to the contrary notwithstanding.

Passed by two-thirds vote of both Houses of the Legislature. Approved October 28, 1914.

D. E. HOWARD,
President R. L.

Mr. Stewart goes on, saying:

3. That previous to said October 29, 1914, there had been no dispute, or controversy, or trouble of any kind between myself and the Legislature, or between myself and the executive, but on the contrary there existed, so far as I know, the most cordial relations between the president and myself, and about a week immediately preceeding said October 29, 1914, in company with Mr. Justice Johnson (the Chief Justice being absent from the city), I visited the Senate and the House of Representatives and we were most cordially received by both bodies, the vice president inviting us to address the Senate, and a response to our addresses was made by a member of the Senate who was appointed to convey to us the Senate's appreciation of our visit and he did so in language most friendly and complimentary.

We submit all of this that the situation be made as clear as possible. The evidence here will, perhaps, be said to be ex parte, because it is wholly from Mr. Stewart. However, the statement has been given wide publicity, and doubtless covers the facts. It may be that there were secret charges preferred and of which it may be that he knows, and also that those "impeaching" him know.

In view of the fact that there were no charges made the deposed man concludes his dismissal was the result of a plan agreed on by political leaders to make a place for Amos Witherspoon in fulfillment of a political promise. Mr. Stewart sets out the case in full, in fourteen lengthy paragraphs which in substance reduces to the facts; that the necessary two-thirds of the members did not vote against him as the constitution required; that the notice of removal was not based upon an address to the president by two-thirds of the House; that it is in violation of the constitution for the legislative and executive to arbitrarily interfere with the tenure of a judicial officer; that judges of the supreme court, and all other courts, shall hold their office during good behaviour; that when removed by the president on the address of two-thirds of both houses the particular reason must be stated.

Mr. Stewart will not give up his office, according to his statement, holding that the validity of the appointment and removal of the members can not be the subject of inquiry on the part of any inferior tribunal, nor be at the pleasure or under the control of any other department of the government as this court is the supreme branch of the judiciary.

To us it appears that Mr. Stewart has the best of the situation unless he is arbitrarily put out of office he will still be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Liberia.

WILL FIGHT TO KEEP MONEY FOR LIBERIA

The American Colonization Society will most likely fight the suit petition that was filed in the Circuit Court last Friday asking that the trust fund that the late Caroline Donovan created for Liberia be dissolved on the ground that American Negroes were no longer applicants for aid in reaching the little West African Republic.

The petition is directed against Ferdinand C. Latrobe, Jr., son of the former Mayor, and James M. Harvey, Jr, who succeeded their father as trustees of the fund, as well as the Society.

A gentleman in close touch with leading officials of the American Colonization Society is the authori-

ty for the belief hat the Society will fight the petition. Only to years ago the Society turned over $67,000 of accrued interest from the Donovan fund for Liberian education. As a result the Caroline Donovan Institute has been established at Bassa, Liberia, with Dr. John H. Reid as president. The dissolution of the trust would greatly hamper the American Colonization in its educational work for Liberia.

Great hopes were once entertained regarding Liberia, the negro republic founded nearly seventy years ago on the west coast of Africa. The institutions of the country are modeled after those of the United States, and it was the expectation of the founders that many negroes would be attracted by the prospect of freedom and self-government. Unfortunately the anticipations have not been realized. Liberia has a population of over 2,000,000; but the great majority of the inhabitants are native Africans, less than 100,000 being descendants of liberated slaves who emigrated from America. The government is feeble and almost constantly in financial difficulties. But for the aid, directly and indirectly, given by the United States, it is quite likely that the Liberian republic would long since have sunk into complete collapse. The situation is recalled by proceedings begun in a Baltimore court to end a trust created in 1886 by a philanthropic lady of that city, who set aside $60,000 for the use of the American Colonization Society. It is shown in these proceedings that emigration to Liberia has ceased; that even in slavery times removal to that locality was not popular, and that not more than 16,000 persons migrated during the time the society has been in existence. The "race question" may have complications; yet it is abundantly evident that the American negro does not care to move to Africa.

CAPTAIN GILESPIE OFF FOR LIBERIA

Captain James R. Gilespie, a retired Quartermaster Sargeant of the U. S. Army, and First Lieutenant William Rountree, formerly of the 9th U. S. Calvary were visitors to the Afro-American office this week. Both these gentlemen, will sail from New York Saturday on the steamship New York, for Monrovia, Liberia. They will take service in the Liberian Constabulary force, better known as the frontier guards. They expect to join the new Liberian minister, Curtis in London.

LIBERIAN DECORATION TO DR. H. L. E. JOHNSON

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 20.—The President of Liberia, through Dr. Ernest Lyon, the Liberian Consul General in this country, conferred the decoration of the Liberian Humane Order of African Redemption on Henry L. E. Johnson, M. D., President of the American Colonization Society. The ceremony tok place Tuesday, Jan. 19, at the Colorado Building, Washington, D. C., headquarters of the society, at its annual meeting, before a full attendance of the board of directors, consisting of Henry L. West, Milton E. Aisles, J. Henry Small, James B. Reynolds, Charles Howe and Paul Sleman.

The order, which is conferred upon Mr. Johnson, was founded by President Gardiner of Liberia (1879), who, having been made a Knight Grand Cross of the Spanish Order of Isabella Catalica, resolved to institute a Liberian order of chivalry, which was named the Order of African Redemption. The decoration is accompanied with a diploma signed by the President and Secretary of State of Liberia, recognizing the philanthropic and humane work of Mr. Johnson in behalf of the government and people of the Republic.

The American Colonization Society, more than any other agency, is responsible for the founding of the Republic of Liberia. It is fitting, therefore, that the Government of Liberia should thus recognize Mr. Johnson. The Society has been a constant and uncompromising friend of the Republic. The large sum of money which was turned over to the Educational Department recently is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Johnson, supplemented by the diligence of Dr. Ernest Lyon, the Consul-General in this country, upon whose recommendation the honor was conferred.

With the crowned heads and distinguished noblemen in England and Europe, who wear the decoration, there are a few in this country who have been so honored, among them Dr. Booker T. Washington of Tuskegee Institute; Fred R. Moore, editor of THE NEW YORK AGE; the Rev. Alexander Walters, Bishop of the Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, and the Revs. Joseph C. Hartzell and I. B. Scott, bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church

Oct 16/15

BACK FROM THE NEGRO REPUBLIC

The Rev. C. H. Brosius Is Here From Liberia.

Will Speak at the English Lutheran Church Tonight.

STATE IN RECEIVER'S HANDS

United States Is Acting as Referee in Bankruptcy.

Wondering What Foreign County Will Grab It.

A fuse to the powder barrel that most Americans know very little about is sputtering in Uncle Sam's finger across the waters in South Africa—Liberia, to be exact. Germany, Great Britain and France are looking on at the negro republic and wondering which country will grab it. The United States has officials in that republic and one of them, Reid Page Clark of Washington is receiver for the bankrupt state. Liberia has an army and a West Point graduate is drilling it.

The Rev. C. H. Brosius, missionary to Africa from the English Lutheran church, will speak of the conditions in the dark continent tonight at the church at 434 Harrison street.

The Liberian government was founded in 1820 by freed negroes. In the century of self-government—the only self-governing negroes in Africa—it has barely penetrated into the interior twenty miles and while brass bands bray out syncopated melodies, gaudy parades are given, and statesmen strut in long tailed Prince Alberts, cannibal tribes lurk in the jungle forty miles away ready to eat the former American negro should he stray far from Monrovia, the capital city.

Badly in Debt.

The government with its senate and house of representatives modeled after the American constitution, has sunk so badly in debt that the United States is quietly trying to pull them out of the hole.

This is the first time in history that the United States has dabbled in European affairs and the government is not trying to do anything but assist the helpless republic to its feet again.

The Rev. Mr. Brosius says that the old missionary idea of converting the heathen to red flannel shirts and collar buttons has long since passed away and they are satisfied if the heathen attends school merely in his birthday suit and learns a suitable trade. No attempt is made to teach the old people, attention being concentrated on the young.

The Annual Synod.

The forty-eighth annual synod of Lutheran church started today with numbers of Kansas ministers in attendance. Four young men from Atchison will be ordained into the ministry Sunday.

Routine business is being transacted at the English Lutheran church and reports of committees and members will continue during the day.

The synod will continue until Tuesday evening when the Rev. C. F. Wiest will speak upon "The Lutheran View of the Pastor's Relation to Civic Problems."

The visiting clergymen are being entertained at the home of the Rev. M. F. Troxell, 623 Buchanan street. An auto ride will be given the visitors this afternoon.

Rev. C. H. Brosius, Missionary to Liberia.

LIBERIAS' AWAKENING

The little Negro Repubic on the West Coast of Africa celebrated the 93rd Anniversary of its founding on July 26th last. Little realizing the task imposed upon these expatriated Americans in setting them in an unhealthy climate surrounded by barbarians and withdrawing the props of civilization, the world is accustomed to pointing the finger at Liberia as a colossal failure, indicative of the inherent incapacity of the Negro for self-government, pointing the moral of Negro shiftlesness. Analyzing the present position of the Republic, the Honorable Edwin J. Barclay, speaking on the occasion of the Independence Day Celebration at the Hall of Representatives in Monrovia, Liberia, denied the assertion that Liberia is a failure, but stated frankly before the president and assembeld dignitaries, that government and governed had not done their full duty. His subject was the "Spiritual Ideals in the Life of a Nation" and he concluded that the failure of Liberia was the failure to agree upon common centralized ideal.

Up to this time the Christia Liberian has insisted that the nation centralize around the concepts of the Christian faith. Christian sectaries form the least numerous of the religious cults in the Republic. Followers of Islam, say the Hon. Mr. Barclay representing the religion of self-surrender, "a virtue which the Christians hereabouts do not practice to any great extent" are increasingly aggressive, and more than this, there is a larger proportion of the population which is neither Christian nor Musselman. Africa is facing the possibility of eventually becoming Mohamedan, first because Christianity is divided, fighting not only herself but Islam's subtler appeal of an easier morality and wider tolerance; secondly because Christian propaganda is not sufficiently aggressive and progressive, its churches hugging the coastline and seldom venturing into the interior. Religions tolerance is the only hope for a Liberian future.

In the place of a religious ideal Mr. Barclay suggests the development of a Liberian culture. His is the vision of an era when sane government, good schools, scientific methods and better understanding among the Republic's hetrogeneous population will make of Liberia the champion of Africa's freedom and the forger of a union of the West African States. The following is his appeal to the older generation:

"You who carry the history of the country and of the race in your heads, you who had large experience with the practical affairs of the State, it is yours to lay the foundation of this Liberian culture. Transfer these histories these reminisences, the memoirs, to paper; formulate and publish by lectures, through the press, in pamphlets your theories and your philosophies. Interpret for us the native cults; tell us why we are here; set us examples of public spirit: show us, as you often try to tell us, that money is not the be-all and end-all of your existence; set up for us the ultimate ideal, feed us with these in season and out of season and your sons will no longer drift. They shall march forward with uplifted eyes and shoulders squared, to the hills whence cometh their racial and national salvation. They will no longer make you ashamed."

This is the awakening of Liberia, the realization of her calling to a high place in the destiny of Africa.

Race Problem — 1915
Asia.

VIEWS AND REVIEWS

JAMES W. JOHNSON, CONTRIBUTING EDITOR.

JAPAN AND THE DARKER PEOPLES.

Japan has recently given evidence that she knows all the tricks of western diplomacy and perhaps a few more. Being an ally of England gave her reason to attack and capture German territory in China, but Japan did not stop there; she had the opportunity to go farther and she went.

Japan took opportunity to force upon China certain measures; measures which have, no doubt, been upon the program of Japanese statesmen for a number of years. China appealed to the world, but there was only one nation concerned in the matter that had the time to listen, and that was the United States.

Japan knew very well that the only nations whose objections would amount to the taking of active steps were in no position to come to China's assistance. She knew that England, Germany, France and Russia had troubles enough of their own. She knew also that the people of the United States would never go to the extent of war for the purpose of preserving the integrity or sovereignty of China. **So the Island Empire seized the golden moment, and made the greatest stroke since her war with Russia toward establishing her status as a world power and furthering her policy of Asia for Asiatics.**

And why should Japan not further such a policy? From every point of view she is right. From a point of plain justice she is right. Or if she takes as precedent the policies of the great white nations she is not wrong; for do they not proclaim white countries for white people? Of course, they go a step farther and proclaim also black countries for white people, but it is hardly likely that Japan will care to conversely follow the precedent that far.

Japan's step means a great deal for Japan. It will mean a great deal for darker peoples the world over. But above all, it will mean a great deal for China.

China has long since shown that she cannot protect herself against the great white nations. The only thing that has so far protected her, in some degree, has been the jealousies of those nations. She would long ago have been partioned among the European states but for the fact that neither of those states would permit another to take the fattest slice.

But these jealousies could not forever save her. She would in time, without the interference of Japan, finally go the way of Africa.

Since the step taken by Japan means so much for the welfare and future of China, and believing that China realizes this, we are a bit skeptical about the genuineness of the cry of protest which she sent out to the world. Remembering Bret Harte's remarks about "the heathen Chinee," it strikes us that this protest might have been no more than a clever bit of Oriental diplomacy. Something like the cry a girl makes for her mother when her sweetheart tries to kiss her.

The Christian missionaries in China played the part which is the recognized quasi-official duty of missionaries in "heathen" lands. Perhaps some reader does not know exactly what that duty is. Well, if you will study the history of the colonial expansion of the great powers, you cannot but be struck by the fact that the ambitions and plans of one of these great powers to secure a firmer foothold in a "heathen" land have generally been synchronous with a protest of some kind from its missionaries working in that land. **In plainer words, a great country is searching for some justifying cause to take a certain "heathen" land; just then the heathen natives do something that causes the great country's missionaries stationed in that land to send out a protest to the Christian world. Perhaps these natives throw some rocks and break a few windows in a missionary schoolhouse. Thereupon, the great country sends out ships and guns and armed men, shoots up dozens or hundreds or thousands of the natives, as may be required, and takes their country in order to teach them that it is wrong to throw rocks and break windows.**

This plan has always worked. The citizens of the great country might not stand for shooting defenseless heathens on the ground of imperalism or of commercialism, but heads of government could always depend upon their support of such methods for the purpose of teaching and furthering Christianity.

So, in the recent Chinese-Japanese crisis the missionaries sent out a protest that Japan was attempting to force the Buddhist religion on China, but there was nobody in a position to take any action on the protest and it passed unheeded.

And looking at this religious phase of the question through the philosophic eyes of a Chinaman, who could blame him for making a choice of Buddhism rather than of the sort of Christianity which he now sees exemplified and put to the test in the great Christian nations of Europe?

We repeat that the step taken by Japan in China goes farther than any, except her way with Russia, in establishing a higher status for the darker peoples; **it is bound to go a long way toward disproving the fallacy that this world and the fullness thereof was created and designed especially for the whiter peoples.**

The Controversy with Japan

Negotiations for a new treaty with Japan, in progress for some time past, were recently discontinued by Japan, for the ostensible reason that the proposed agreement would raise new difficulties. Japan's new Government, more radical than the preceding one, preferred to go back to the situation indicated by the correspondence with our Government in the controversy about California's alien land law, and at the Japanese Government's suggestion this correspondence has been published. It consists mainly of long arguments in support of each Government's position, Japan holding that the law violates the commercial treaty of 1911, while the United States maintains that it does not. These are the leading contentions, but other points are considered and discussed. Our Government's suggestion that the question should be submitted to the United States courts was rejected. The tone on both sides was always that of friendship.

Some think that Japan's abandonment of the treaty negotiations and return to the position taken in the correspondence were designed to commend the new Government to the radical element in that country. A deadlock has been reached, and the serious nature of the problem is realized at Washington. It is said that a proposition from Japan for submission of the controversy to arbitration would be favorably considered.

Owing to reports that 400 Japanese are coming from California to Michigan, and intend to found an agricultural colony in that state, there is a movement for the enactment in Michigan of a law like the one in California. Prominent candidates for public office favor such legislation. The president of the Michigan Agricultural College says he regards such a colonization project "with grave apprehension," and the secretary of the college has asked the agricultural organizations of the state to oppose it. This is also the attitude of the labor union leaders.

Race Problem—1915

Central America and Mexico

THE PLAN OF SAN DIEGO

The startling "PLAN OF SAN DIEGO" as revealed by the Associated Press of last Thursday need not be alarming to the American people. IT SHOULD BE A WARNING TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. The story as published is as follows:

San Antonio, Texas, Aug. 12.—General Funston has made a report to Washington indicating that secret organizers are aligning Mexicans under the "plan of San Diego," which calls for the seizure of the American States on the border and the establishment of a republic for Mexicans. Negroes, Japanese, and Chinese. For the last two years dissatisfied Texas-Mexicans and refugees from across the border have been spreading the principles of the plan.

Information given to General Funston is that normal conditions will not be restored until enough troops are distributed to form a guard for the villages in the Brownsville territory.

There has been, we are inclined to believe, a silent propaganda going on in the Southwest seeking to sow discord and discontent among the colored citizens with the American Government because of its prejudice and proscription against them and its brutal failure to protect them. As far North as Oklahoma this preaching and these murmerings have been heard. The increasing Jim Crowism and race-baiting of the Woodrow Wilson Administration and the simultaneous shedding of the blood of innocent black men have furnished fresh coals to the fire. Patriotic and loyal as the black men near the border are to the Stars and Stripes these preachments and their increasing burdens are beginning to have their weight with these colored men. It has not been surprising, therefore, that some hard headed, educated black men have lent this hazy and incoherent plan their ear. We measure our words as we say this. They have not subscribed to any such conspiracy or treachery as the San Diego Plan. But they have been persuaded to believe that the white men of the South are bent on their eternal subjection and degradation. Some of these have secretly believed that a government of mixed and colored races would grant them the boon of equal citizenship and the equal rights of life, liberty and property. This element of discontent, we advise the American people, unless appeased and checked, may some day become a germ of trouble. Repression is simply bearing its fruit. The colored people of the Southwest do not know that should they go to Mexico and join in a government with the Japanese, Chinese and Mexicans that they would not be jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. But that the colored people of the South are becoming disgruntled, that they should be even made to think of such a salvation, that they should be neighbors to the American hating Mexicans is an element of danger to this nation.

There is but one remedy. The race is growing weary of its heavy burdens. Let the American people stop the lynching and the burning of black men and women, boys and girls. Let the Federal Government stop, too, the night riding and the driving out of their homes the black men of the South. Let the Woodrow Wilson Administration stop its mad career of race segregation. Let the black man enjoy the bread that he earns by the sweat of his brow like any other man beneath the American Eagle. Let the people of this nation build here a kingdom where right and justice regardless of race shall prevail. Let THE LAND OF THE FREE be enshrined in spirit and in truth throughout this broad land and all such plans as that of San Diego the American people can laugh to scorn. As he has been the black man will then remain, not only America's surest toiler in times of peace, but her bravest soldier in times of war

DIAZ SURVEY FAIR TO PEONS, EXPERT SAYS

Former U. S. Army Captain Explains Land Plan of Late Mexican Dictator.

Chicago Daily News

INDIAN LINES RESPECTED

Their Suspicion Aroused by Entrance of Americans, However, and Removal of Forests.

8-25-15

BY RAYMOND G. CARROLL.

Coincident with the encouragement of new industries by the late President Diaz, Mexico was surveyed and mapped out for the first time in its history. The writer of this article decided that the only information worthy of reliability upon this Diaz land survey must come from a disinterested source, yet from a man who had actual first hand knowledge. This sort of a man was found in El Paso. He is a graduate of West Point, an engineer and a splendid linguist. The late Collis P. Huntington and the late E. H. Harriman both respected this man. He is the best authority on the mines of Mexico in the United States to-day.

In the heart of the "Mexican quarter" of El Paso, up a dark pair of stairs, down the long hall of a lodging house, I went in the quest of ex-Capt. H. O. Flipper of the United States army. In a room off this hall, bending over a small table and busy translating the mining laws of Mexico from Spanish into English, was found the ex-army officer.

Capt. Flipper a Part Negro.

Strange that a man of these accomplishments and past distinguished acquaintances should be in such surroundings? Not at all. Mr. Flipper has a strain of negro blood in his veins and he is foreclosed from the social circles to which his ability and manners would otherwise admit him. Flipper is the only colored man who ever was graduated from West Point [redacted] and so much rumpus was raised over it by "southern gentlemen" in the army that a way was found to get Flipper out.

The ex-captain bears his punishment with dignity. His present and future are in Mexico, where exists a real equality for color. He is against American intervention. In Chicago I had heard of Flipper: he is well known in New York. Big men everywhere with interests in Mexico speak highly of him.

"You are familiar with the details of the Diaz land survey?" I asked of Capt. Flipper.

"I was on that survey," he replied.

Peons Not Robbed, He Insists.

"Then you know all about the robbery of the peons," was asked.

"They were not robbed," he answered. "I shall give you the details as I know them:

"No country can be considered in the civilized class until it has been surveyed and platted out on maps. Diaz knew this. There were thousands of square miles of public lands in Mexico which had never been surveyed. He decided to have the prominent points and other objects on the surface of Mexico marked out. He was anxious for new railroads and willing to bonus those who would build them. The surveys were of vital importance.

"Thereupon Diaz hit upon a plan for having the cost of the surveys made without the expense falling on the government. He let the surveying out on shares. The proposal was something like this: 'If you will survey the land we will give you a third interest in all the lands you survey, provided you pay all costs of the survey and give bond for faithful performance. You get the one-third of the surveyed land only after we accept your survey.'

Mexico Divided Into Zones.

"In this manner Mexico was surveyed and divided into zones. The unit of measure was 2.47 acres. After a district was surveyed off the government had first choice for its two-thirds. Then the contractor took his portion. If the contractor wanted more than his portion he had to pay the government a cash price for it. This cash price was fixed by the government, and any man, rich or poor, could buy.

"In making the land surveys the contractors were required to respect the limits of the various Indian settlements and mark these limits on the ground at their own expense. The areas of the Indian settlements were also marked upon the maps. The contractors were instructed to use tact with the Indians and respect the boundaries of their settlements, keeping outside them.

"Property control and limitations are quite beyond the mental compass of an Indian. Ask one of our own Indians what he owns, and in reply he will probably swing an arc from mountani peak to mountain peak as the boundaries of his possessions. Indians are nomadic and wander with the birds in the seasons.

Clash of Race Ideals.

"I'm afraid Anglo-Saxons, with their gift of homemaking and definite ideas of comfort, which they insist upon carrying out, will never understand Indians, whether they are in Mexico or elsewhere. Diaz thought he understood them. His father was of Spanish parentage; his mother was a half-breed, of a Spanish Asturian father and a pure bred Indian mother.

"True, the Mexican Indians were deprived of their lands—if one accepts a boundless ownership. When Spain ruled Mexico and sought only gold, its officials, treating with the forefathers of the modern tribal heads, recognized some of these claims.

"An Indian going into the forest for firewood for his personal use claimed the forest, likewise the stream where he fished and the thick underbrush where he hunted. He wanted the forests to remain in their original state, also the thickets and the streams.

Indians Restless Under U. S. Activity

"There you have your finger upon the land question of Mexico. When the surveyors of the land sold their property and received good money in return for it from perfectly worthy Americans, and these Americans came into the country with their bandsaws, cutting down the mahogany trees for export, supplanting the virgin forests with sugar cane, rubber plants, tobacco and cotton stalks, the Indians began to act restless.

"Mexico was covered with tropical plants supposed to have no value. Anglo-Saxon and European intelligence located vanilla plants and deposits of chicle, which is the basis of American chewing gum, and other revenue making products growing wild. Diaz should have foreseen this and provided compensations for the Indians. His failure to do so created Zapata, the original champion of the Indian and upriser against the central government."

What of Madero's Promises?

"But President Madero would have restored all these lost lands to the Indians if he had not been murdered?" was asked.

Flipper arose and went to a side of the room filled with shelves, finding documents and books in many languages. He brought one of the documents back to a table, and in the feeble light of the small lamp read aloud:

" 'It being only just to restore to their former owners the lands of which they have been despoiled in such arbitrary manner, such dispositions and decrees have been declared subject to revision, and will be demanded of those who acquired them in such a lawless manner, or of their heirs, to make restitution to their former proprietors, who will also pay an indemnity for the injuries suffered. Only in cases where such lands passed to a third person before the promulgation of this plan the former owners will receive indemnity from those in whose benefit the spoliation was accomplished.'

Madero Did Nothing in Office.

"I have just read you paragraph 3 of the famous plan of San Luis Potosi, the platform upon which Madero rose from being the weak minded socialistic member of a powerful Portuguese family to the presidency of Mexico," said Flipper. "Madero, you see, promised very little.

Once in office he did nothing. The return to the Indians of Mexico of the land they would like to call theirs would be about as preposterous an undertaking as the return to the Indians of the United States of the land now covered by populous cities and farms, occupied by people engaged in the advanced pursuits of industry and agriculture."

Flipper said it. Others have tried to explain the land question of Mexico, but they bungled. This half-white engineer, of keen intelligence, saw the "Passing Show" in Mexico from a grand stand seat. He could feel the emotions of the Indians and understand the ambitions of the white men, for he himself bridged a great chasm between two races.

"Then you see in Mexico a re-enactment of North American history?" was asked.

He replied: "I would rather not say more. You can use your own deductions, only the Indians are now armed and are upon equal military footing with the whites."

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NO COLOR LINE IN MEXICO; RACE MADE WELCOME

The Only Redeeming Feature of Strife-Ridden Republic Is the Absence of Race Prejudice—Afro-Americans Find No Color Line.

NO CLASS DISTINCTION.

Strange Contrast Between Native Hate for White Americans or "Gringoes" and Love for Darker Races.

The disturbed Republic of Mexico, with all its internecine strife, has one redeeming feature so far as the black man is concerned. There no prejudice on account of color exists. The black man is treated on perfect equality, and his presence in a community is welcomed almost to the degree of rejoicing. Not so, however, with the white man, if Mr. Floyd P. Gibbons, writing in the Chicago Tribune, tells the facts as they actually are.

The "gringoes," as the white people are called, are hated beyond measure by the Mexican. Politeness characterizes the Mexican's conduct towards Americans in their purely diplomatic dealings, and in their contact with Americans on public occasions, but the "gringo" hate is still there.

Origin of Term "Gringo."

The reason for this is found in history, and partly because of the business success of some Americans who have made fortunes in the Mexican republic. The origin of the term "gringo" dates back to the war between the United States and Mexico. According to the Mexican story, the United States soldiers who invaded the republic in 1845 wore uniforms in which the dominant color was green. In the dispatches sent back by the Mexican soldiers who went to meet the invaders it was declared that the Americans had been put to flight. Consequently it was said of the soldiers in green that they had run. From this came the term "gringoes," or "green goes." It is estimated that there are about 5,000 American citizens located in the interior of Mexico today. They know what the "gringo" hate is. In their sojourn in the republic they have experienced it every day. Those same men know what it means to them if the United States suddenly decides to invade Mexico. Most of them have gray hairs from their experiences of a year ago last April when United States troops landed in Vera Cruz.

"But You Might Turn."

Illustrative of the feeling existent with the Mexican toward the "grin-goes" is this incident:

Mrs. George C. Carrothers, wife of the United States state department representative, was talking to a 12-year-old Mexican boy in Torreon one day. The boy carried a rifle and cartridge belts, and a hat band showing he belonged to the brigade of General Chao. Mrs. Carrothers asked him if he didn't think he was too young to fight. He replied that he expected to be a grown-up soldier soon.

"But the revolution will be over then," said Mrs. Carrothers.

"Then I can fight the 'gringoes,'" said the boy.

"We are your friends," said Mrs. Carrothers. "We have no fight between us. We are your brothers."

"Yes, but you might turn," said the boy.

The incident gives some idea of how deep rooted the feeling is. It may be that good treatment and unselfish examples can overcome this hatred, but there are few American residents of Mexico who believe that anything but years of association and education can eliminate it.

General Talks to Defender Reporter.

In strange contrast with these facts as reported by the Tribune's representative direct from the scenes in Mexico was the reported interview with General Felix Angeles, one of Villa's chief aids during his recent visit to Chicago. Having been taken to see the "Birth of a Nation," he was asked his opinion of it. He was made to say that the black man in Mexico, as elsewhere, constantly stood as a menace to the country's development. He is presumed to have praised the picture and suggested that the educational features would be effective in showing the Americans something of the volcanic conditions under which they lived during the days succeeding the war of the rebellion.

When seen by a representative of the Defender General Angeles, himself two-thirds Negro, expressed surprise that what he had said regarding the "Birth of a Nation" had been so misconstrued.

"My People Know No Prejudice."

"My people," he said, "know no prejudice. We live in our country on equal terms with all. Such a thing as color prejudice is unknown to us, and I am surprised to see so much of it in the States. Our leading men in the army and in civil life are black men, and we resent any attempt on the part of Americans to introduce color prejudice in our country. In fact," he concluded, "the feeling of resentment, if there exists any against Americans in Mexico, is due to their persistent efforts to force their 'color prejudice' notions upon us."

MEXICAN COMMENDS THE BEE.

As the Mexican Negroes See it.—Citizens Indeed and in Fact.

The Bee in Mexico.

C. Victoria, Mexico,
Nov. 28, '15.

Mr. Calvin Chase,
1109 Eye St., N. W., Washington D. C.

Dear Sir:

I want to congratulate you on your answer to President Wilson's speech of November 4, to the Manhattan Club. If all the supposed "great men" would practice what they preach we would have a glorious country, but instead the United States has won for herself the worst name of all the nations of the "known world."

There is not a nation on earth except the United States that stands for staking a "living being and burning him."

The men who burn a man are worse than the man they burn.

Well, I am here in Mexico where a man is a man. I am the private physician to the governor of this state —Tamanlipos, Mex.

We have colored men here making money and enjoying life as other nations here. We have people here of all nations and each is respected.

I want a first-class tanner to tan hides, a black man. Will you send me one? We will give him a good price and pay him in gold. I want him at once.

A friend sent me your paper. We can not send money from here yet, but I will be able to send it in a few days.

The war is about over and we are preparing to m[illegible] am go-to tan hides and make shoes in a [illegible] years. I hope to have money in my business.

I have one shoemaker but will take one more if he is O. K.

If you publish this letter send me a copy. I can, and will if you wish, write often.

Yours,
JESSE M. MOSELY, M. D.

CHEERING WORDS FROM C. VICTORIA, MEX.

Dr. Jesse M. Mosely, former Texan, but now at C. Victoria, Mexico, writes the following to the Editor of Dallas Express:

C. Victoria, Mex., Dec. 8, 1915.—Hon. W. E. King, Dallas Express: Dear Old Friend:—I thank you so much for the Express. It makes me feel at home when I see what you all are doing. I must say for you, the Express is a step ahead and leads the way for other papers. Your writings are above the common press; I am glad to see it. Well, my Governor has made me a Major and am to take charge of a hospital at Tula, Mexico. Mr. James Montgomery, of Tampico, a black man, has a daily income of $150.00, gold. I am, yours.—Jesse M. Mosely, M. D., and Major in the 5th Division of the Army of Northern Mexico.

Honduras Negro Seeks Citizenship.

For the second time since the new naturalization law went into effect in June, 1906, providing that only whites and blacks of African descent or nativity may be admitted to citizenship in this country, application for first citizenship papers were made yesterday by a member of the negro race. The applicant was Moses Thompson, 50, a native of Honduras, who immigrated to the United States in 1883 and has resided at California, Ohio, this county. The first application under the new law was made by a negro from Cuba, six or seven years ago.

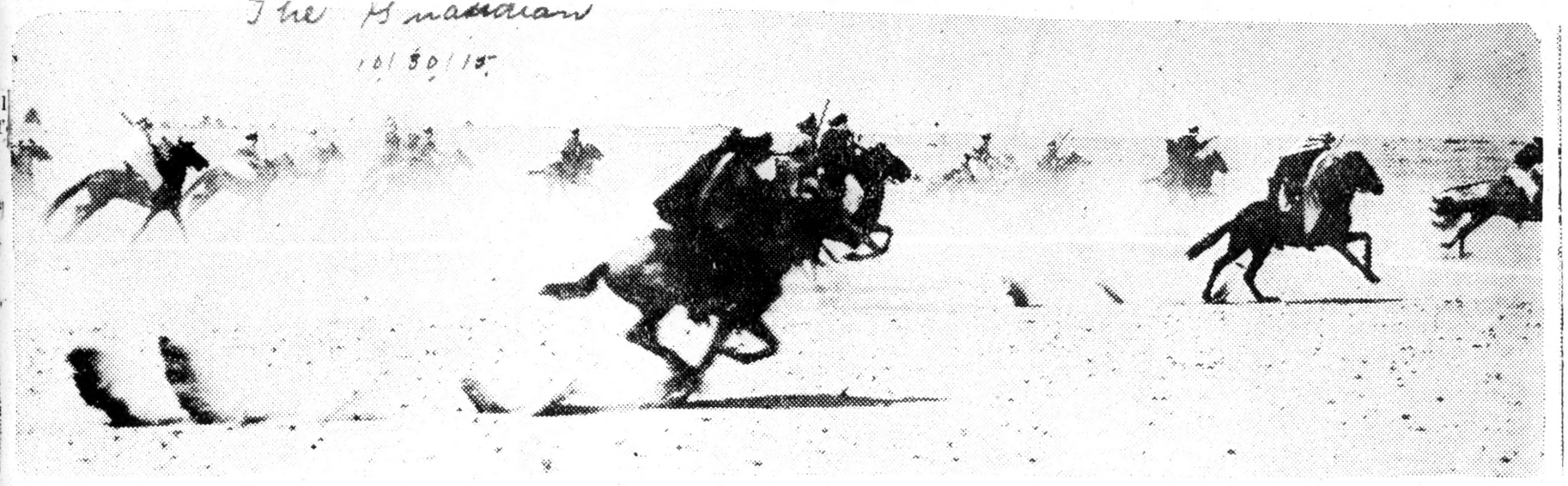
DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Race Problem - 1915

Europe

The Guardian

10/30/15



French-African Native Cavalry Charging Masked Macrine Gun Batteries Across the Dunes of Flanders in Belgium. The World War Has Produced No More Hard Riding, Heroic Horsemen Than These Semi-Savage Algerians, and ach Day They Are Hurling Themselves Recklessly to Death in the Face of Withering Artillery Fire on the Western Front.

Courtesy of Boston Traveler.

COLORED STUDENTS FIGHTING

The New York Times 11/1/15

The London Weekly Illustrated shows a picture of "our first colored soldier in the person of Eldridge Eastman, a Barbadian, fraternizing with his fellow soldiers. Eastman was a student in England before the war broke out and was the first colored man to be in the English ranks. He is an athlete of much note; represented England at the last Olympic games and holds the English record for 100 yards.

Race Problem – 1915

Europe

KITCHNER BREAKS DOWN COLOR LINE IN ENGLISH ARMY

The Chicago Defender 11/13/15

James Slim, a Native of Jamaica, Is Enlisted in The Coldstream Guards, One of Britain's Proudest and Most Famous of the Crack Regiments.

WAR CHANGES ATTITUDE

Previous to Present Conflict Darker Races Were Not Wanted—Slim's Acceptance at This Time Is Strong Indication of Democratic Effects of the War.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

London, England, April 2.—The rigors of the European war has had the effect of opening the ranks of England's mos exclusive military regiment to enlistment of a pure Negro, and a native of Jamaica.

The Coldstream Guards, at the front, now numbers among its roll of non-commissioned officers James Slim, a Negro. Slim was in France when the war broke out and joined the French Foreign Legion. In the first engagement with his regiment on the Alsace frontier, he was wounded and sent to the military hospital. While there he expressed a wish to join Kitchener's new army.

General Gives Permission.

The wish of the wounded adopted French subject was conveyed to General Kitchener. The general sent back a message which assured the wounded Jamaican that upon his recovery his discharge from the French army would be obtained and that he (the general) would personally see that his wish to join the British army would be gratified.

When Slim recovered he presented himself at the headquarters of General Kitchener and requested the orderly to hand the general the note which conveyed the assurance that he would be enlisted in the British army.

Trains Reserves.

The general immediately directed that Slim be admitted. After observing his splendid physique orders were issued to enlist him in the exclusive Coldstream Guards. Two days after his enlistment he was promoted to duty sergeant and detached for duty training the reserve battalion now stationed at Windsor.

The fact of Slim's acceptance in England's most famous and exclusive regiment is a strong indication of the democratic effects of the present war.

FRANCE TO HONOR CHICAGO NURSE IN RED CROSS WORK

The Chicago Defender 3/13/15

Miss Ludia Barksdale, Graduate of Provident Hospital, Doing Yeoman Service Along the Belgium Frontier—Her Assistants Are Women of Many Nationalities.

PRAISED BY SUPERIORS

Absence of Color Prejudice Gives Young Woman Chance to Display Talents and French People Laud Valuable Services of This Remarkable Woman.

(Special Correspondence the Chicago Defender.)

Paris, France, March 4.—The heroic work of the Red Cross in the war between the Allies and the opposing German and Austrian forces has been the one principal comment of the European press. Enlisted and now actively engaged in this humanitarian service with the French army is Miss Barksdale from the States and registered in the War Department here as being from Chicago and a graduate from Provident Hospital in that city. She is in charge of a corps of 500 nurses of variegated nationalities and is known throughout the zone in which she has been engaged in her work of mercy as "the little corporal." She is at present on the Belgian frontier and reports which have reached the war office regarding her service have won for her and those under her charge the highest praise of the staff officers in the medical branch of the War Department.

Nurses From Every Clime.

Under this trained American of color are Red Cross nurses from the West Indian Islands, Santo Domingo and Haiti, together with French and English nurses.

It has been a matter of much comment that in the present war trained nurses from the States whom the Red Cross societies have so persistently ignored, on account of color, have rendered such efficient service and won for themselves such signal praise. Miss Barksdale has already been designated for decoration and it is expected that very soon she will be personally honored with the presentation by the division commander in charge of the French force in which region she is now actively engaged.

Talent Has Full Sway.

The French people everywhere are outspoken in their praise for the valuable services that this remarkable woman has rendered since she enlisted and was sent to the front. Over here—where color is no bar and where merit counts, Miss Barksdale has won for herself a lasting memory in the hearts of every French man and woman in the Republic.

MERIT, NOT RACE, FRANCE DEMANDS

New York Dentist Spends Three Months in French War Hospital Service

DR. ROBERTS RETURNS

Tells Of Experiences During Period in Which He Served as a Volunteer Dental Surgeon in Paris Military Academy.

HOSPITAL STRUCK BY SHELL

German Zeppelin Shelled Building, Partly Wrecking it—Passengers on French Liner Drilled in Safety Tactics —Dr. Roberts Showed Speed in Using Life Preserver.

An absolute unconsciousness of racial or color difference is a predominant characteristic of the Frenchman on French soil, according to Dr. Charles H. Roberts, the dentist of 242 West 53d street, who returned to the United States on September 6 from Paris, France, where he had spent several months in the hospital service of the French government, treating wounded soldiers.

"During my stay in France," said Dr. Roberts, in talking with a representative of THE AGE, "there was not the slightest evidence in any way, shape or form, that my color was noticed or considered. I had letters of introduction and commendation from ex-President Wm. H. Taft, Dr. Booker T. Washington and Major R. R. Moton, and through these letters I received many courtesies from Eugene Brieux, the famous author, writer of the play, 'Damaged Goods,' Frederick Masson, the Shakespearean authority, Dr. Vincent, discoverer of anti-typhoid vaccine, which he supplies to the Allied Armies from his laboratories at Val de Grace, the largest military hospital in France, and many other people of prominence.

"It was not that, being a colored man, I was received with courtesy and consideration, but there appeared to be an entire absence of even the thought that I might be in any way different from anybody else. The idea of the Frenchman is that a man should be considered purely in accordance with his attainment and qualification, and any man's position in the social scale is measured by his merit and not by complexion or racial affinities. I was connected with Hospital Auxiliare No. 265, located at 27, Place Saint Georges, being the only American in that institution. I was on duty from 2 to 4 o'clock p. m., daily, except on Sundays and Thursdays, my duties consisting mainly of inspection service, with many opportunities for operative work."

DR. CHARLES H. ROBERTS

GERMANY IS OBJECTING TO BLACK-BROWN TROOPS

Contributor 9-16-15

Berlin, September 15.—(Via London, September 16.)—The foreign office has just issued in English a memorial against the employment of black and brown troops in the European theater of the war by France and Great Britain on the ground that they have brought with them savage practices of warfare of their native countries.

The memorial charges the Africans and Hindoos with murdering the wounded and mutilating the dead.

The charges are supported by numerous documents.

Affidavits submitted in an appendix reproduce the famous protest in the house of commons by the Earl of Chatham (William Pitt) against the employment of Indians in the American revolution.

The memorial concludes with a solemn protest by the German government in the interest of civilization against the employment of these troops in Europe. It says this is contrary to the spirit of all international agreements of the past two decades, which make it the duty of civilized peoples to lessen the inherent evils of warfare.

Effect of the War on Colored Races

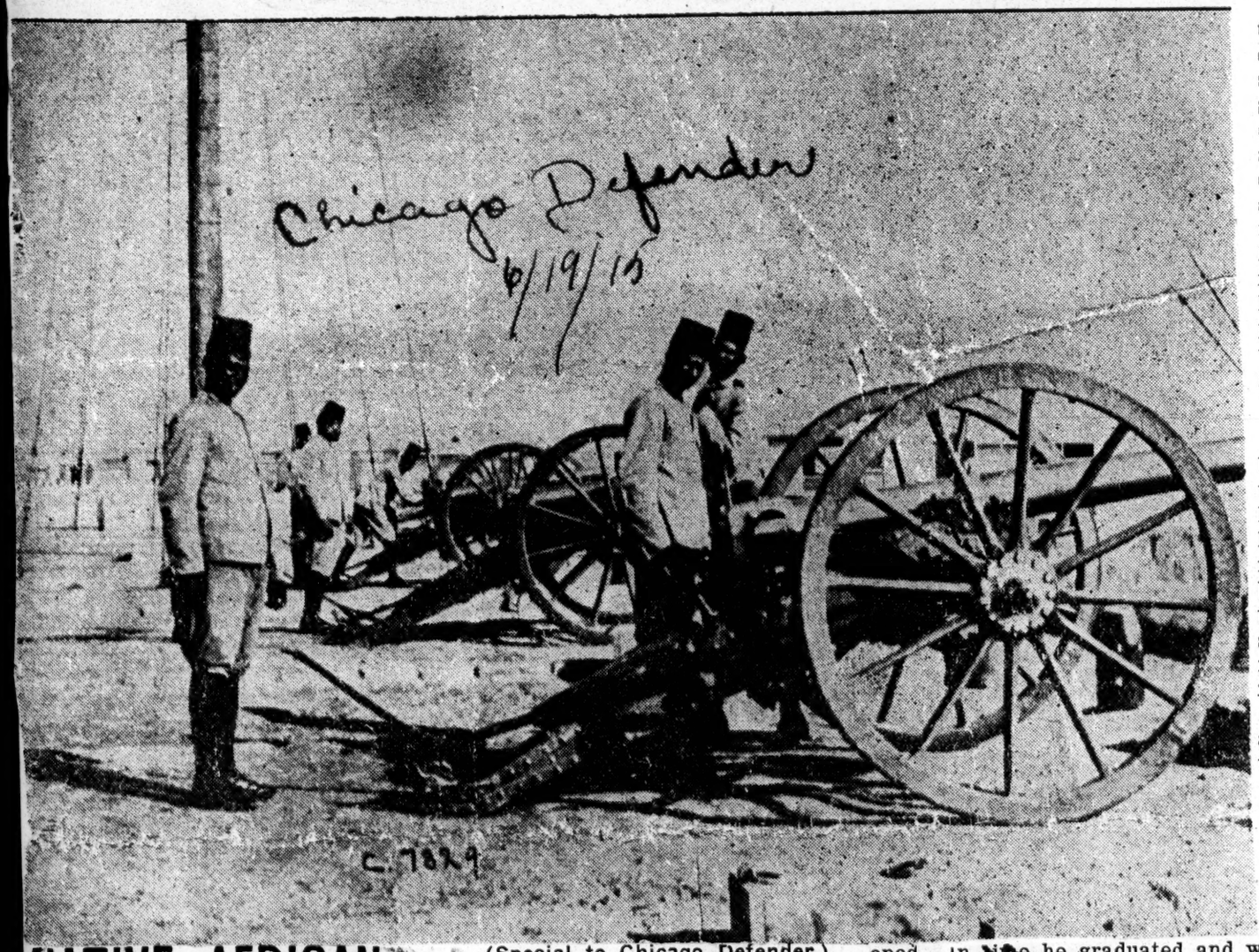
[Southern Workman]

The cool manner in which the colored fighters—both the Senegalese and Indians—have behaved on the fighting line, and the efficient manner in which they have handled western weapons, the heroism they have displayed when brave men turned cowards and had to be sent back home as confirmed invalids suffering from nervous prostration, and the uncomplaining way in which they have suffered sorely trying privations, have justified their employment on the continent. Their admirable behavior has turned many enemies into friends. The necessity that has led to the employment of colored soldiers on the continent of Europe deals a shattering blow to racial prejudices. After the war is over, the position of the dark peoples in the political economy of Greater Britain and Greater France will never be the same that it was before the conflict took place. The destiny of the Indian subjects of the British empire and the negro citizens of the French republic is bound to be completely reshaped as the aftermath of the war. Hints of it have already begun to appear in the British and French press, even though both of the nations are engaged in a life and death struggle and have no time to think of any constructive work.

Few American Negroes in London.

"There are a few American negroes in London," says a New York Sun correspondent, "but most of the race in England are young men from the British colonies who are studying law or medicine or taking regular collegiate courses. In the library at Lincolns Inn, one of the noted inns of court or law schools of London, every man engaged in reading when a Sun correspondent was there the other day was a negro."

AFRICAN TROOPS FIGHTING UNDER NATIVE COLONEL



NATIVE AFRICAN COLONEL, HERO IN EUROPEAN WAR

Col. Pasquale Denoix, Native African, but Educated in Paris, Most Notable Figure in Present Conflict—Restores Order in Madagascar.

GRADUATES AT CALAIS.

Wonderful Story of the Rise of a Native of the Western Coast of Africa—Talent Has Always Attracted Attention—Picture of Troopers.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Paris, France, June 18, 1915.

Fighting on the banks of the River Yser along with the allies in their great war with Germany and Austria is a regiment of artillery composed of native Egyptians. They were originally recruited for service in defense of the Suez Canal, but when the present war was declared the English war department immediately took steps to use this regiment of artillery for effective purposes where the battle was hottest. They have seen service on the frontier of Alsace-Lorraine and Belgium, and are now commanding a strategic point on the Yser River. The commander is Colonel Pasquale Denoix, a native African, born in one of the many French colonies on the West African coast. At an early age he was taken to Paris by a French army officer, who, impressed with the unusual precocity of the young African lad, determined to give him the best and highest education. Young Denoix was placed in a French parochial school and rapidly developed. In time he graduated and was sent by his benefactor to a college of technolcgy at Calais, France.

Amazes Professors.

Here he amazed professors and students alike with his marked brilliancy. After a course of three years he graduated, taking the highest honors of his class. His thesis on the "Art of War" attracted widespread attention throughout France and was the occasion of much favorable newspaper and magazine comment by the leading French journals. This brought him to the attention of Deputy Theophile Lamouroux, who represented the district in the Chamber of Deputies in which Calais is situated. He sought him out, and after consultation with his benefactor offered him an appointment to the Government Military Academy at Bordeaux, France. Accepting the appointment, young Denoix entered at once the famous military school. His work and worth here was soon recognized. After four years of brilliant service at the Government Military Academy he graduated with high honors. His appointment to the military service of France followed his graduation and he was assigned to the artillery branch.

Attracts Attention.

His talents at once commanded attention and respect from the highest officers in that branch of the French service. When the uprising at Madagascar broke out the French war office selected the then Capt. Denoix as commander of the forces to restore order in this French colony. At the same time he was promoted to the rank of colonel. Col. Denoix organized the expeditionary force, and within three months after landing in Madagascar order was restored and peace reigned. Upon his return he was assigned to the War Board of Strategy stationed at Paris.

Send for Col. Pasquale.

When the present war was declared by Germany England requested the war office at Paris to assign Col. Denoix to command its regiment of Egyptian artillery. The transfer was made and Col. Denoix has given a brilliant account of his regiment since the beginning of operations. It is said that the Germans regard this regiment as the most dangerous of its foes.

The picture shows a section of this artillery regiment with guns in position on the Yser River.

Africa the Prize

Prof. W. E. B. DuBois is responsible for the most stimulating contribution to recent literature on world politics. Writing on "The African Roots of War" in the Atlantic Monthly, he gives vivid outline to the alleged struggle by white races to conquer and enslave for profit the black, brown and yellow peoples of the earth.

Professor DuBois is an economist and sociologist as well as a brilliant member and valiant champion of the colored race. His article recites the rapacious rapidity with which European nations have seized the soil of Africa and chained Africa's inhabitants to their money mills.

Africa's mineral and vegetable wealth is a powerful stimulant to the white man's aggression, we are told, but in addition there is "a throng of human beings who, could they once be reduced to the docility and steadiness of Chinese coolies or of seventeenth century European laborers, would furnish to their masters a spoil exceeding the gold-haunted dreams of the most modern of Imperialists."

Unless the full measure of democracy and fellowship be extended its people, Africa will plague the world with wars for centuries, we are told. Its wealth is a bone over which white races will quarrel always, as Professor DuBois contends they are doing in Europe now. He pleads passionately for a policy by white men which will avert such disaster for all men in future.

MORE COLONIAL TROOPS FOR THE FRENCH ARMY

Paris, September 15.—"Fighting continuously in Africa since last September along a front of more than 2,000 miles, French colonials, aided by the British allies, have obtained remarkable results," said Gaston Doumergue, minister of colonies, to the Associated Press today.

"German East Africa," the minister continued, "soon will be the only colony possessed by Germany, except a small part of the Kameruns. The other German possessions either are occupied by the French or English or conjointly.

Discussing proposals for raising more native troops for operations next spring, M. Doumergue said:

"I hope that we will be able to add still more colonial troops to the force of 70,000 Senegalese riflemen who are on the firing line, whether in France, Morocco or the Kameruns and in Western Africa. It is indeed wonderful to see the way in which the natives have responded to the mother country's call, and their absolute devotion to the great cause. All the colonies have sent more than their quota of troops, and many more are eager to come.

"This is due to their childlike faith in their commanders, who have rendered our successes in the Kameruns possible. I learn, in this connection, that many native troops fighting wtih Germany have crossed over to our side."

CABLE ITEMS

Manchester England, April 28—One of the great attractions in the prison camp at Ruhloben, near Berlin, says an Englishman who has been allowed to return, is the series of cricket games between the British on one side and the negro captives on the other.

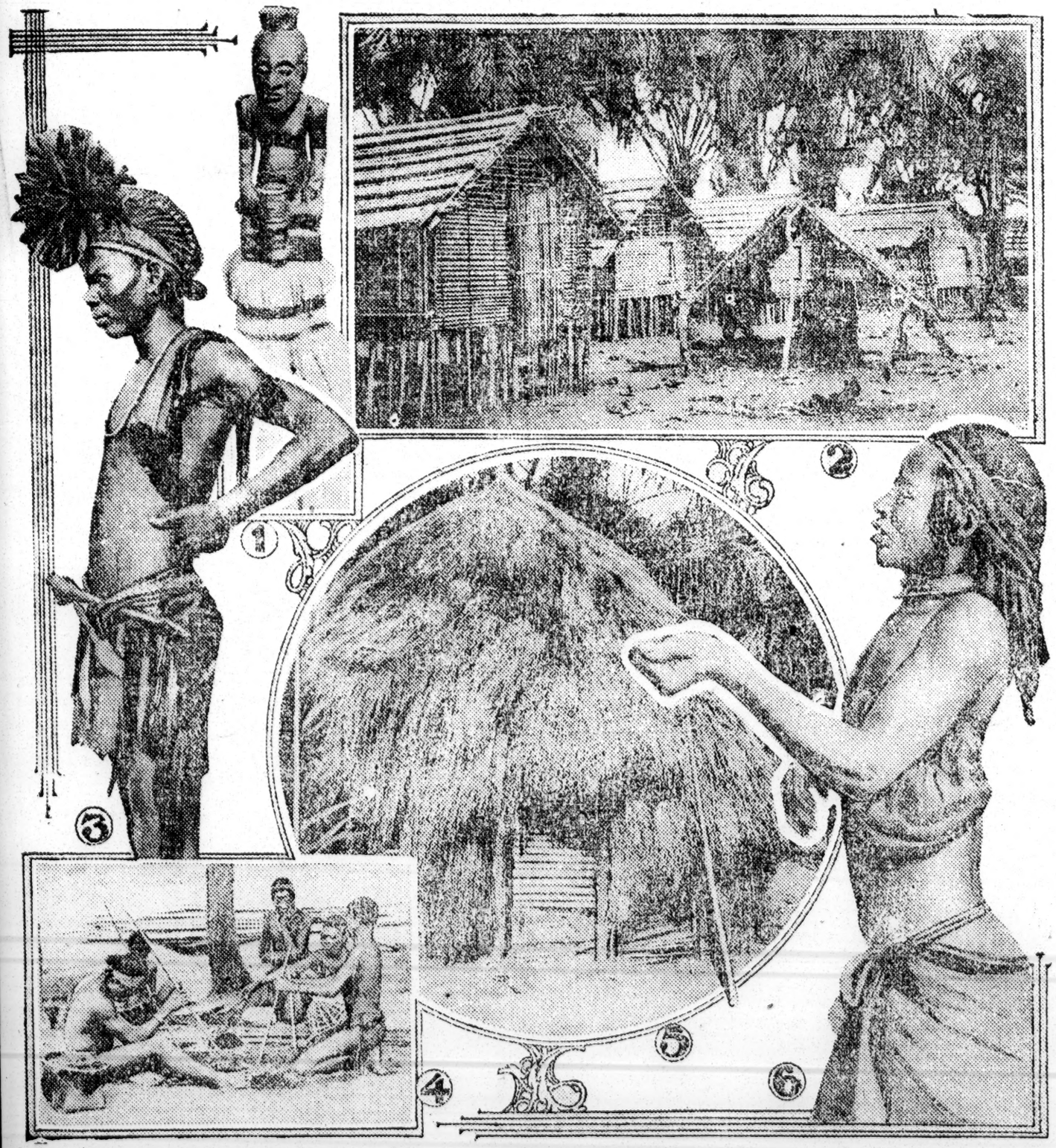
The negroes invariably win, he narrates, and then march back to their barracks four abreast singing "Tipperary" and highly pleased with themselves.

Other sports are chess checkers, dominos, tennis (with hand-made equipment) and, most remarkable of all, baseball.

Race Problem—1915

Europe

Afrikanische Neger als geschickte Eisenarbeiter



1. Ein Götzenbild aus Eisen, von Eingeborenen gemacht. — 2. Die Haupthütten einer afrikanischen Ansiedelung. — 3 Junger Häuptling, Schmiede bei ihrer Arbeit überwachend. — 4. Eingeborene, Eisen schmiedend. 5. Palast des Häuptlings. — 6. Junges Mädchen, Eisen als Opfer darbringend.

Lange Zeit war man der Ansicht, daß die Kunst das Eisen zu bearbeiten, auch von den afrikanischen Negern betrieben worden ist und jetzt hat man es fast zweifellos festgestellt, daß dem auch so ist!

Archaeologen haben beim Ausgraben in Nubien eine eiserne Speerspitze gefunden, die anscheinend aus dem Jahre 3400 vor Christus stammt und es ist wunderbar, daß gleiche Speerspitzen heutzutage noch von den Eingeborenen Afrikas geschmiedet werden.

Es giebt Strecken in Afrika, wo das Eisenerz wie Sand aussieht und durch Lagerfeuer, die sie entzündet haben, und die das Eisen in dem Sande zum schmelzen brachten, haben die Eingeborenen gelernt, wie man das Erz schmilzt und unter den einzelnen Negerstämmen sind Eisenbarren ein gangbarer Austauschartikel.

Der Schmied der Eingebotenen ist mit einem ambulanten Kesselflicker zu vergleichen, aber doch scheint zwischen diesen ambulanten Schmieden eine Art Gilde zu bestehen.

Das Gebläse, das sie mit sich führen, wird von zwei Männern betrieben und diese halten das Feuer in starker Hitze. Als Ambos wird von diesen Schmieden oftmals ein Stein benutzt und die Hämmer, welche diese Schmiede schwingen, sind primitiv und würde man kaum glauben, daß diese Männer mit solchen einfachen Instrumenten wahre Kunstwerke aus Eisen herstellen können. Diese Schmiede nehmen Zaubererkunststücke zur Hilfe und umgeben sich mit einem Nimbus, der auf ihre Stammesgenossen fascinirend wirkt.

Wenn der Schmied in dem Dorfe erscheint, ist das das Signal für ein allgemeines Freudenfest und Tänze werden exekutirt.

Aber die Kultur dringt immer weiter und dringt unablässig vor, und die Zunft der schwarzhäutigen afrikanischen Schmiede wird kleiner und kleiner. Aber doch ist in so manchen Distrikten Afrikas auch heute noch der Schmied eine angesehene Person, der oftmals den Stammesgenossen die Götzenbilder anfertigt aus purem Eisenerz.

ONLY NEGRO SOLDIER IN GERMAN ARMY DISCHARGED AND WEEPS WHEN NOTIFIED.

Berlin, Germany, Sept. 14.—The only Negro soldier of the German army has just been discharged from the service by order of the minister of war. The Negro is a native of Southwest Africa. He came to Germany about two years ago and found employment with a firm in Westphalia. Last May he volunteered and he was sent to the training camp at Strassburg. Two weeks ago he was attached to a battalion of engineers, but he never reached the front. The war minister decided that no Negro should fight in the ranks of the German army in Europe. When the Negro was notified of his discharge he wept.—El Paso News.

Well, the Negro soldier wept first. The German may weep last.

COL. PLEDGER'S SON W. A., FIGHTING IN FRANCE.

William A. Pledger, the son of our late distinguished Col. W. A. Pledger, has enlisted in the English army and is now in France fighting for the cause of the Allies. Young Pledger enlisted in the regular army of the U. S. and no soldier came from Cuba with a better record for efficiency as a soldier and for undaunted courage than "Little Bill Pledger," as he is known in Georgia. After Cuba he went to the Philippines and there also distinguished himself. Now he is in France and we predict that the Allies will have no more capable, brave and courageous soldier than our Little Bill Pledger. The following is a characteristic letter to B. J. Davis, accompanied by a Bristol, England, newspaper cut of a batallion of colored soldiers being recruited at Cardiff, under Sergeant-Major Ashton and Private Dedwney, of a famous Welsh regiment:

Bristol, England, May 27, 1915.

Col. Ben Davis,
Atlanta, Ga.

It sounds good to say Atlanta, as I am about off for France. My fighting blood could not resist the temptation to take on. I have been over in this country about two months and finally was to take on at Cardiff. I am here on recruiting service, and we expect to go to the front on the first. Regards to all. If you don't hear from me soon, please let my old friends know that I died for the cause of humanity. Enclosed you will find a clipping of some of our batallion. Send me The Independent to No. 29 Horsefair St., Bristol, England. We have forty-five in my company from the U .S. (colored men) and others coming. Regards to Col. Johnson, the Madam and the office force.

WILLIAM A. PLEDGER,
Company B.

P. S. All mail will be forwarded to me while on the firing line.

WOUNDED AMERICAN IN FRENCH HOSPITAL

Dr. Daniel T. Brantley, lately returned from the Philippines, visited the Hospital for Convalescents at Nice, France. He found an American Negro, J. H. Montgomery, in the hospital, badly wounded, having lost a leg, besides other injuries. Montgomery was a member of the French Foreign Legion and told Dr. Brantley that he was wounded at the battle of Marne.

Montgomery was a chauffeur in Paris at the outbreak of the war, and going into service was assigned to the ambulance corps. He has relatives in this country from whom he has not heard in a number of years. A brother and some cousins were last heard of as living in Baltimore. He can be reached by a letter addressed to the Hospital for Convalescents, Nice, France.

HOW BLACK ASCARI'S GAINED FAME IN WAR

Northern African Negroes Served With Italian Army During Italo-Turko War

THEIR HABITAT IN TRIPOLI

When the Black Tribesmen Volunteered for Service Italy Feared to Use Them, but Finally Sandwiched Them In, One to Every Four Italians—Returned from War Laden With Honors.

James A. Rivers, who used to be a sparring partner of Jack Johnson, and who went to Europe in 1905 with the Buffalo Bill Wild West Show as an interpreter, returned to America about three months ago. For the past four years he was stationed at Rome, Italy, in the employ of the Italian government as instructor in boxing to the Italian policemen. He tells the following interesting story of the use by Italy of black troops from the northern part of Africa in the Italy-Turko war of 1911:

"During the war of 1911 between Italy and Turkey, there was a tribe of Northern African Negroes, called Ascari's, numbering about two hundred thousand or more, having their habitation in Tripoli on the border of the Mediterranean Sea near Egypt. This tribe volunteered to the Italian government for military service, but fearing treachery, the Italians hesitated for more than two months to accept them. Finally, it was decided to use them, putting one Negro soldier to every four Italians.

Black Troops Lionized.

"The achievement of the Negro soldiers was the most important factor in the campaign. The Italian government, to show its appreciation and pride in their activities, placed these men in all the different branches of government service. They were also taken on trips to all the important cities of Italy, thousands of them making the trips at the expense of the government. Everywhere they went these black troops were idolized and lionized by the wealthiest and highest ranking families.

"The tribe is of a large, raw-boned species, quite muscular, wearing sandals or going barefooted, and accustomed only to hot climates and sandy regions. The tribe has volunteered its services in this present war, but the government refused to accept them on account of the cold climate."

Mr. Rivers speaks six or seven languages, and after leaving the Buffalo Bill show was interpreter for four years at the Folies Bergere, Paris, one of the largest theatres in the world. He will open a school of languages at the colored Y. M. C. A. January 1 in the evenings, starting with classes in French and Italian.

ENGLAND DEPENDS ON BLACK MEN FOR AMUNITION

Vast Army at the Front Fighting for Honor and Glory of Great Britain Would Be Helpless Only for Work of Ebony-Hued Subjects in Arsenals—Between Sixty and Seventy Thousand

WORK IN 8-HOUR SHIFTS

Government Places High Estimate on Services of Loyal Subjects—Moving Picture Company Becomes Interested and Thousands See Unusual Pictures.

(Special Correspondence of the Chicago Defender.)

London, England, March 4.—Working in eight-hour shifts in the government arsenals on the quays are between 60,000 and 70,000 ebony-hued subjects of Great Britain who are manufacturing ammunition with which the warriors at the front are defending the honor and glory of England. The sight is an interesting one. These loyal blacks are straining every nerve to turn out from day to day the vast amount of ammunition required for distribution throughout the war zone where English troops are in action. They receive a crown and one-half per day, which is in American money $7.50. They come from the West and East Indies and their services in this difficult employment have been eminently satisfactory to the government officials.

Work Praised Everywhere.

So interesting and variegated is their work that a moving picture concern has taken notice of it. Recently at Piccadilly more than 1,000 feet of moving pictures was shown displaying the various departments in which these ebony-hued sons were at work doing their share towards defending the nation's glory. The work of these men has received much favorable comment in leading clubs and governmental departments. Referring to their efficient work, the Under Secretary of War recently made this comment: "If it were not for the faithful and untiring service of the ebony-hued subjects of Great Britain at the arsenals, Great Britain would long since have been forced to take the defensive where they have the offensive in this struggle for the preservation of our flag and honor."

Striking Contrast.

The high estimate placed upon the service of this group of African blood by the English government is in striking contrast with the treatment accorded them in America.

COLORED MAN WON V. C.

In view of the fact that nearly a score of colored men of St. John who enlisted are still waiting to be attached to some battalion, it may be recalled that a Nova Scotia negro won the Victoria Cross at the relief of Lucknow. His name was William Hall, and he was the son of a Virginia slave, and was born at Horton Bluff, Kings Co., N. S., where he died in 1904. In the January, 1908, number of Acadiensis is an article by Mr. D. Mils, in which he tells the story of William Hall, and quotes the following letter from Sir Noel Salmon, written in 1906:—

"Dear sir:—William Hall, the negro of whom you wrote, served with Peel's Brigade from H. M. S. Shannon at the relief of Lucknow. He was one of the crew of a 24-pounder siege train gun under Lieut. Young. The storming party, which was led by Sir Colin Campbell himself, was brought up by a high and thick wall which was strongly held. The gun in question was run in by hand to within a few feet of the wall which it was necessary to breach. Hall continued sponging and loading after all the other members of the gun's crew were shot down, for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was a fine, powerful man, and as steady as a rock under fire."

The History of the Victoria Cross, by Philip A. William, London, 1904, says that Hall was one of three colored men who have been awarded the Victoria Cross.

Why should not a colored man who wants to fight for Canada be given a place in the ranks?

FOR 700,000 COLORED TROOPS.

France Will Consider Recruiting in Africa.—Also Proposes to Enlist in Tonkin—Negroes Serve Well At Front.

Paris.—Deputy Pierre Masse has prepared for introduction in the chamber a bill providing that natives of French colonies and protectorates be recruited for service in the army.

It is estimated that this step would add 700,000 men to the forces in the field by next Spring.

The excellent service given by the large number of natives now at the front has resulted in the proposal that they be used on a much larger scale.

Leading French statesmen have had under consideration for some time the vast recruiting field which lies open to France in the colonies, especially in China and Equatorial Africa. The main features of the bill which M. Masse will present to parliament when it reassembles were proposed by Gen. Mangin, who has a distinguished record of service in Morocco and the Sudan.

If the plan is adopted the new army of Colonials will be composed largely of Colored Troops.

ADMITTED TO KINGS REGIMENT

Brave West Indian Wins His Spurs at the Front.

A telegram last Monday recounts the exploits of a West Indian at the front. G. Slim, a Jamaican, who was in France when the war broke out, joined the French Foreign Legion and while engaged in the trenches suffered a shattered wrist.

On his recovery, being a Britisher, he was desirous of entering the British ranks and on account of his exploits an unusual honor was conferred on him by his admittance to the King's exclusive regiment, the crack Coldstream Guards.

Dr. W. S. Mitchell of Grenade, B. W. S., who tendered his services to the Royal Army Medical Corps, has received a reply from the War Office stating that commissions in the R. A. M. C. can only be granted to men of pure European blood, says the New Jersey Informer and comments on the pathetic willingness of darker races in Great Britain's smaller colonies to keep the aristocracy of England from biting the dust before the German bullets. It is easy to imagine the chagrin of Dr. Mitchell and his West Indian friends in receiving this rebuff at the hands of the mother country, but if he did not see it then, he surely sees it now that England wants men to do her fighting not see how or that it is done. An offer on the part of the Grenada citizens to furnish a native regiment officered by whites, we dare say, would have been accepted with eager "willingness" by the War Office.

VAST ARMY OF AFRICANS URGED BY FRENCH DEPUTY

60,000 BLACK MEN USED AT FIRST—FOUGHT WELL—WILL NOT BE DRAFTED — LIVE VERY CHEAPLY—MASSE FAVORS ARMY OF 500,000 BLACK MEN.

Paris, Oct. 23, 1915.—An army of half a million black men will be ready for the 1917 summer campaign if the plan of Deputy Pierre Masse is supported in the Chamber by his fellow-members.

At the beginning of the war 60,000 natives of Africa came to France to fight for their new flag. These Tunisians, Algerians, Moroccans, Senegalians and so forth—"Turcos" most people call them now, stretching the term a little—have fought well and proved their ability to stand the colder climate.

Deputy Masse figures that the army of 500,000 would not be difficult to raise. It will be a "paid army, not conscripts. The natives would not submit to conscription. As the natives can live on a cent a day, 10 cents a day appeals to him as a small fortune. Masse contemplates giving the wife of the volunteer 10 cents a day, also 10 cents a day to his father. His family taken care of, his own wants provided for by the army, the black and yellow men, Masse believes, will rally in large numbers to the call.

Exclusive of northern Africa French colonial possessions have 45,000,000 inhabitants.

Race Problem - 15
Europe

DR. DERNBURG'S DICTUM.

The following brief paragraph is taken from the report of a speech made in Cleveland a day or two ago by Dr. Dernberg, known as the official mouthpiece of Germany in this country:

> Dr. Dernburg went on to say that England must give up her rule of the sea, and that by international agreement the use of colored troops in war of white nations must be prohibited.

With Dr. Dernburg's decision that England must give up her rule of the sea we are little concerned because we feel that England can fairly well take care of her end of the argumnt. But when he decrees that "by international agreement the use of colored troops in wars of white nations must be prohibited" we are compelled to take notice.

And not because we are particularly anxious to see colored troops have to fight in wars of white nations or yellow nations—and much less in any possible war of black nations—but we are compelled to take notice because we are on general principles opposed to segregation. We have fought it when it was merely the result of an order issued by an insignificant bureau chief in our own government departments; then so much the stronger will we fight when it is proposed to establish segregation by "international agreement."

Did not Dr. Dernburg know at the time he was making his idiotic speech that the United States was standing face to face with the possibility of war with Germany? And does he not know that of the small army of the United States four regiments are colored troops? If by any chance this country should be drawn into war with Germany the Doctor will learn that the bravest and hardest fighters his countrymen would have to meet would be these same colored troops, and many more like them.

FRENCH CHAMBER GIVES FULL RIGHTS TO BLACK SUBJECTS

Martinique and African Representatives of Their People by Great Eloquence Win Pension for Widows and Army Rights

COLOR QUESTION BRAVELY MET AND SETTLED BY FRANCE

Stirring Scenes in Paris as Equal Rights for Africans and West Indians Are Granted—A Black Soldier Praised

Paris, July 10.—The race and color question raised in the French Chamber of Deputies a week ago by the bill of the colored Deputy M. Diagne, representing Senegal, providing for the extension of general compulsory military service in France to colonial municipalities whose inhabitants enjoy French citizenship, was presented in numerous new lights and complications at the session of the Chamber this afternoon.

The question of how to apportion a pension in cases of polygamist Senegalese leaving several widows proved a poser to the Deputies.

The Minister of War and the Military Committee of the Chamber approved the general provisions of the Diagne bill, which provide for the incorporation with the regular French forces of the Senegalese subject to compulsory service. The action of the committee was immediately attacked by Deputy Lobroue, who pictured the difficulties arising from the presence in the French army of soldiers unable to speak French and of different religion and social customs. Deputy Labroue also raised the question of confusion in the payment of pensions to the widows of polygamous Senegalese. He proposed an amendment providing for the incorporation of such troops in native regiments, entitled to pensions and the other rights of French citizens.

The speaker was frequently interrupted by protests from the colored Deputies, Diagne, Lagosilliere of Martinique and Candace and Boisneuf of Guadeloupe, Lagrosilliere crying amid frantic applause: "Our fellow citizens ask only to be allowed to serve the mother country, for whom they already have poured out their blood."

Paul Deschanel, president of the Chamber, was forced to quell the tumult by declaring that the entire Chamber felt "the same respect and the same love for all, whatever their race or religion, who are fighting under the folds of the tri-colored flag."

Deputy Labroue insisted on special regiments for Senegalese who do not speak French. Deputy Boisneuf interrupted, crying: "I, then demand a special regiment for Frenchmen unable to read and write."

Deputy Diagne then obtained the floor and made an eloquent appeal on behalf of the blacks, reviewing the part they had played in conquering the French colonial empire.

"For eleven months the Senegalese have demanded to be allowed to serve France," he said; "if they haven't been permitted to do so it is the fault of the Minister of War."

Deputy Diagne said that the widows of soldiers ought to receive pensions, even when there were several; but he added: "Native soldiers are not as rich as the average French soldier, who is also poor and, therefore, has only one wife. Polgymany is a luxury of wealth."

Alexandre Millerand, Minister of War, said the Diagne bill seemed to meet the wishes of a majority of the Colonials, and urged its passage. The bill was passed without change.

AMERICAN NEGRO PROVIDES FUN FOR WORLD WAR FILMS

He's in Foreign Legion and Boxes a French Champion to Amuse Soldiers.

How little the war gets on the nerves of the men who are taking part in it is shown very strikingly in the merry bout fought between Bob Scanlon, an American negro, who is fighting for the allies in the French Foreign Legion, and Adolphe Thein, the French lightweight champion. The fight took place just outside the trenches during "recreation" time.

Never was there a merrier party round a boxing ring. No ropes are up. The smiles of the soldiers form the ring. The prize was to be shared by all, both combatants and all the spectators—for it was nothing but fun. The two experts with the gloves box for love of the sport and to amuse themselves and comrades.

No written report of the encounter could tell how great was the fun and how splendid the exhibition of the fine feeling that pervades the Foreign Legion half as thoroughly as do the official motion pictures that were taken and are now being shown at the Fulton Theatre under the auspices of The World.

These pictures form part of the official films taken by order of the Great General Staff of the French Army for the National Archives of France as a record of the war, and were loaned by the French Government to The World though its war correspondent, E. Alexander Powell. Many of these pictures show the actual fighting. Others show how the soldiers keep themselves in condition and shake off the effects of trench life. Among these are scenes of frolics and the bout between Scanlon and Thein.

The hitting seems so hard and every blow appears to land. One would expect the two men to end in pulp. But neither gets a scratch. When one falls exhausted, the other rolls beside him and the referee brings them up to time by taking both by the seats of their trousers.

But it is a perfectly scientific fight for all that. The fooling is not all of it. That is only thrown in because the men know that all the hard hits they can stand may come at any instant from the foe. But those who know what pretty fist work is will enjoy this bit of play equally as much as those who have never seen a prize ring.

There is a great scene when the battle is over. The crowded audiences at the Fulton all day long always thoroughly enjoy it. Some one produces a small Stars and Stripes and throws it over the big laughing negro and makes him happy as a child. But the national line and the color line too have been forgotten for the nonce in the Foreign Legion—it is only the man that counts.

Among the thrilling glimpses these official pictures give of the terrible nature of the fighting in France, these other glimpses of its more human side come as a relief and greatly add to the interest and the value of the display at the Fulton.

New York Sun

July 1915

'NEGROES KICKED AWAY.'

Germans Accused of Refusing to Save Muleteers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, July 2.—The survivors of the steamship Armenian, who have landed at Cardiff, say that the crew of the submarine saved three white men from the Armenian's crew, but that the Germans kicked away the colored muleteers as they were swimming alongside the submarine.

Ambassador Page has communicated the following particulars of the sinking of the Armenian to Washington:

"The Leyland Line steamship Armenian was torpedoed and sunk at 8:06 o'clock in the evening of June 28 by a German submarine. The vessel carried 1,414 mules consigned to Port Avonmouth. Twenty-nine men are missing, among whom the following:

WILLIAMSON, address care of J. M. Munroe, New Orleans.
F. R. SUTTON, Catersville, Va.
B. N. GRANBERRY, 4115 Washington street, Montgomery, Ala.
HARRY STONE, New York city.
CARPENTER BROWN, Harrisburg, Pa.
R. H. BROOKS, a naturalized American of London.

"Dr. Viso and three negroes are reported to have been picked up by the submarine. Twelve negro muleteers are

missing.

"The men were for twelve hours in the lifeboat and on the raft before they were picked up by the President Stevens, a Belgian trawler. They were transferred to two torpedo boat destroyers at noon and brought to Bristol on the 29th. Eight negroes and two white men are in the British infirmary, slightly wounded.

"A Central News despatch reports that the men who are at Bristol are Americans."

PITTSBURGH, PA.

POST

JUL 9 1915

France Has Problem In Negro Pensions

PARIS, July 8. — The race and color question, raised in the French chamber of deputies a week ago by the bill of the negro deputy, M. Diagna, representing Senegal, providing for the extension of general compulsory military service in France to colonial municipalities whose inhabitants enjoy French citizenship, was presented in numerous new lights and complications at the session of the chamber this afternoon.

The question of how to apportion a pension in cases of polygamist Senegalese leaving several widows proved a poser for the deputies.

New York Times

July 191

ARMY RIGHTS FOR NEGROES.

French Chamber Extends Compulsory Service to the Colonies.

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The speaker was frequently interrupted by protests from the negro Deputies Diagne, Lagrosillière of Martinique and Candace and Boisneuf of Guadeloupe, Lagrosillière crying amid frantic applause: "Our fellow-citizens ask only to be allowed to serve the mother country, for whom they already have poured out their blood."

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Alexandre Millerand, Minister of War, said the Diagne bill seemed to meet the wishes of a majority of the Colonials, and urged its passage. The bill was passed without change.

A Negro's View.

Editor The St. Louis Star: Kindly permit the so much despised negro so often spoken of in your excellent paper a litle portion of your space to reply to our esteemed and kultured Germans of St. Louis and vicinity.

I have been tempted on many occasions to take this satisfaction but have been educated to bear and forbear, this I have practiced until patience with our unreasonable German friends became almost a crime.

We, as a race, know well what we have received from the Teutonic world. Nothing! Their continuous insults concerning the nigger fighting the humane German in France and in the British Army is absolutely false. (I regret we are not.) Hindoos are not negroes, neither are any portion of the British Army negroes. The absence of our race at the front for the British in particular is very much to be regretted from our point of view. I think the British with our beloved Uncle Sam have accomplished more for the liberty-loving negro than all the Germans that ever lived. First, I think the British were authors of one or two instruments that have produced more of the sum total of human liberty, consequently happiness, than was ever conceived by the vicious mind of our detractors.

Magna Charta, and the reform bill are two wonderful "scraps of paper" that the world would be willing to fight to retain in our lives as a heritage from the "Brutal Briton." If my history has not gone askew I think the good Queen Victoria, on coming to the throne of Britain, announced to the world that she would rule only over free men. (God bless her.) Her ministers at once proceeded to compensate the slave owners, and our race was free in British dominions. This same race as represented by our early settlers in this country framing a constitution, the like of which had never been previously known to civilization. Still later came the emancipation act of our immortal Lincoln of British descent, and by the way, our declaration of independence.

If our vindictive Germans that are so dissatisfied with the United States and its laws and regulations, especially its neutrality, will be kind enough to show me one act of their Teutonic friends in the cause of human liberty and progress instead of abusing the nigger that is not killing his gentle and peace loving countrymen, we might tolerate them a while longer. Again while on this question of freedom and liberty, is it not a fact that almost every German in the United States came here to avoid the despotism of their rulers? I have read many times in the recent past of German conscripts committing suicide to get away from the iron heel of their petty officers in the kind Kaiser's army, whose love of being a despot is overwhelming. It is inconceivable how the German can complain of any race or country in view of the fact that their gentlemanly Ambassador at Washington is this very day notifying the American public that if they travel on British ships they will in all probability be murdered by drowning, as the Germans will again destroy passenger ships, even with neutral passengers aboard. No negro can equal this in its atrocious nature. Seemingly a new brand of fighting for Germany. Can any African equal those bloodthirsty people in savagery? Oh, Germany, crawl down to earth and forget "Deutschland Ueber Alles."

PRESS ROGERS.

African Soldiers in Camp Along Belgium Frontier

Native African Soldiers Bivouaced at Nieuport, Belgium. They Are Fighting on the Side of the Allies, and in Every Engagement in Which They Have Participated, the Germans Have Suffered from Their Unerring Aim of Rifle Unequaled Courage. This Particular Group Is Senegalese.

A Coloured Senator in France.

FRANCE alone among the colonizing Powers finds a place in the Imperial Legislature for representatives of her dominions beyond the sea. Most of her colonies are represented by a Senator and one or more deputies. The news has now reached us that a pure-blooded Joloff has been elected as the deputy for French Senegal. This is probably the most important landmark in African history since Moshesh built up the Basuto kingdom in South Africa.

A Rhodes scholar from Australia writes home that he wants to quit college and enlist because there is nobody left now at Oxford "except niggers, Yanks and rotters." It was the idea of Cecil Rhodes that by educating together young men from Australia, Canada, South Africa, Germany, the United States and the United Kingdom, they would learn to respect and like one another. Evidently the plan does not work quite as he expected.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

SUPREME COURT RULES OUT "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Mayor Nye, Minneapolis' Fearless Executive Upheld by Court of Last Resort—Revoked Licenses Granted by City Council and State's Highest Tribunal Sustains Him.

A PRECEDENT ESTABLISHED

Farreaching Decision Will Benefit Race Wherever Attempt Is Made to Show Film.

Case in Chicago Soon to Be Decided—Minnesota Case Will Be Cited Here.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 3.—The Supreme Court of this state handed down last week a sweeping and far-reaching opinion upholding the right of the mayor of the city of Minneapolis to revoke the license granted by the city council for the exhibition of "The Birth of a Nation" at Shubert's theater in that city. The opinion was delivered by Mr. Justice Harmon in which the entire Supreme Court Bench concurred.

The case has attracted nation-wide attention on account of the bitter fight made in the city council of Minneapolis on the occasion of the hearing before that body when application was made by the management of Shubert's theater for a permit to exhibit the film.

History of the Case.

About six weeks ago the manager of the exclusive Shubert theater of Minneapolis applied to the city council for a permit to exhibit "The Birth of a Nation." When the application was made, notice of the date of the hearing before the city council was published as required by the ordinance, prominent citizens of both races appeared before the council, some protesting against and others advocating for the issuance of the license. After two days' hearing the council granted the permit to the theater to exhibit the pictures. Mayor Nye, conceded to be one of the most liberal and fair-minded officials ever elected in Minneapolis, acting upon his best judgment and the advice of influential friends who had seen the picture, notified the management of the film that he would exercise the discretionary power vested in him by law, and revoke the license granted by the city council. He accordingly issued the order revoking the license. The theater management then took recourse to the circuit court of Hennepin county. A bill for an injunction was filed praying that a restraining order be entered to prevent the mayor from interfering. The city law department vigorously resisted the application made in the court. A full and complete hearing was had in the circuit court in which the merits of the picture and its effect upon the public mind were exhaustively gone into. The presiding judge ruled against the complaints and sustained the mayor by dismissing the bill. From the decree of the Hennepin County Circuit Court an appeal was taken direct to the State Supreme Court. The case was there submitted upon briefs and arguments of counsel for both parties.

The complete record of the evidence heard before the lower court was certified up together with prospectus, brochure, and comments, local and foreign.

The Supreme Court in the opinion just handed down reviewed the photo-play and the alleged historical events that it purported to portray. The decision unreservedly sustains the right of the mayor to revoke the license, and held that the mayor properly exercised his power of discretion in refusing to permit the play to be exhibited.

"Courts will not interfere with a municipal officer upon whom is conferred discretionary power, unless it clearly appears that he has wontonly abused that power," says the opinion.

The learned justices, after reviewing the evidence and commenting caustically upon the attempt through the medium of "The Birth of a Nation" to revive issues long since forgotten and by that means incite hatred of one race against another held that the mayor wisely exercised his discretionary power in preventing the film from being shown in the city of Minneapolis.

The order of the Circuit Court of Hennipin County, dismissing the complainant's bill for an injunction was affirmed.

This is the first case involving the many legal attempts to prevent the exhibition of "The Birth of a Nation" that has reached and been decided by a State Court of last resort. It is a signal victory for the opponents of Thomas Dixon's vicious attempt to stamp the whole male portion of the Negro race as rapists and renegades. The decision will be of incalculable benefit to the race and fair-minded whites in stopping the play wherever hereafter attempts to exhibit it are made.

The case in Chicago involving the same points decided in Minnesota will soon come up for final disposition, and the city law department will use the Minnesota decision in support of their contention.

OHIO GOVERNOR BARS PLAYS

Anti-Race Productions Like "Clansman" Forbidden at Request of New York News Contributing Editor.

Columbus, O., April 15.—Governor Frank B. Willis, of this State, forced the Bureau of State Censors to revoke their permit given for the photo-play the "Nigger," which had opened in Cleveland, and was preparing to open throughout the State. The Governor further assured Harry C. Smith, editor of the Cleveland Gazette, and Ralph W. Tyler, contributing editor of the New York News, who called to see him to-day in the matter, that under no circumstances would he permit "The Birth of a Nation," Dixon's revamped "Clansman," to show in this State. The "Nigger," on having its license revoked, attempted to secure a new permit under the title of "William Farnam," but this was blocked. The Governor absolutely will not stand for any plays tending to incite race hatred or prejudice.

ARIZONA RACE LEAGUE SECURES QUICK ACTION

Special to The New York Age.

PHOENIX, ARIZ., June 15.—The first work achieved by the league organized to protect the rights and interests of the race in this city was the suppression of the vicious movie play, "The Nigger."

A committee called on the City Manager and the County Commission in protest, and as a result an ordinance was enacted prohibiting all plays that are indecent or that in any way tend to create race hatred.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

The St Louis Argus

This is a name of a photo-play which, it is claimed, is a history of the Negro in America. Its promoters argue that it is based on actual events in the Reconstruction Period. In reality, it is a photo-dramatization of one of Thomas Dixon's vile books. Dixon is a renegade preacher whom New York City would not swallow, but spewed him out, and who has since spent his time writing books designed to increase race hatred and libel the Negro.

The photo-play itself is not an insult to the whole Negro race, with a tendency to foster the spirit of lawlessness and race retaliation, but it is a menace to the morals of any community, because of certain scenes that are criminally immoral.

We are referring to this photo-play because it has been approved by the National Board of Censors and is about to be shown throughout the country. A few cities, be it said to their credit, have listened to the protest of representative colored and white citizens, and forbidden the exhibition. But other cities have scorned the protest and the pictures will be shown.

Without question, the issue will be before us in the near future. We must be on our watch, and as soon as the reels arrive in St. Louis they should be met by a united, determined protest that shall ring out in no uncertain tones in defense of our racial progress and in the interest of law and order. For, just as certain as the pictures are shown here there may be a Negro outburst that would bear to the ground any theatre that would have the insolence and indecency to exhibit "The Birth of a Nation."

Under protest, the promoters cut one objectionable and questionable scene. This very act was an admission of the character of the entire drama. It should all be cut out. If there is no law to suppress the pictures on their merits—or rather, demerits—there is a law to suppress anything that has a tendency to incite riot and disturb the public peace. And if "The Birth of a Nation" is shown here, or anywhere else, trouble will follow. It may be started by the pictures' inciting the hatred of the whites against the colored, or vice versa, but there will be trouble.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

On Wednesday of last week there appeared in the Evening Ledger of this city, a half column article from Dr. Charlotte M. Abbey, with large headlines stating that Dr. Abbey approves of "The Birth of a Nation." We could hardly believe our eyes as we had known Dr. Abbey as one of the very best friends the Negro has. After an extended conversation with the doctor over the telephone, the editor of the Christian Recorder addressed her the following letter, and since she has asked our permission to let the editor of the Ledger read it, we give it also to our readers; also at the special request of the Philadelphia Preachers' Meeting, to whom we read it and who saw fit to give the editor a rising vote of thanks, and to request the full publication of the letter. It is as follows:

My Dear Dr. Abbey:

I have just read your letter about the "Birth of a Nation." I think

the Evening Ledger emphasized what you said rather strongly in its headlines, still I cannot say that it was unfair to you as it appears to me.

Your estimate of the the photoplay appears to me to be at fault in the following respects:

You seem to mistake the purpose of the play.

You appear to assume that what the play depicts is true. There never was such a character as Lynch in the State of South Carolina. The only Negro who was a lieutenant governor is still living, and was no such character. I could point out numerous historical inaccuracies in the painting of the characters.

In showing the degraded sex instinct why make a Negro pursue a white girl, when the facts will show that white men pursue Negro women far more? I fail to see how a moral lesson can be drawn from a distortion of truth such as the play is.

You pass over without notice the fact that a lynching took place in the play, **and that lynching was applauded.** You make no mention of the fact that the Klu Klux Klan murdered thousands of Negroes, robbed their properties and expelled many more from their homes. All the murders which Negroes have committed since they have been in this country will not equal the murders committed by the Klu Klux. Yet the play glorifies the Klu Klux as though they were doing God service. Is it that murder is wrong when Negroes commit it, but when committed upon Negroes by whites it is in the service of the Cross of Christ? That is the message of the play. And, of course, that is what America believes today. But I hardly expect so high souled a person as Dr. Abbey to condone it.

You speak of the politicians. But the best illustration of corrupt politics is this play which has, it appears to me, so far misled you, as to cause you to go to the public prints to commend it. It is an old trick of the politicians to hide their corruption under the sheep's clothing of a respectable citizen. Thus they keep in power because the great mass of honorable citizens are so misled as to think that the respectable man, the bosses have put up, will purify politics. How often has Philadelphia been fooled! So "The Birth of a Nation" tacks on to the end of its story a few pictures of Hampton Institute in order to pull the wool over the eyes of the best friends of the race. But you must have noticed that there is no logical connection between this part and what had preceded it. You must have noticed that the advertisements of the play say it has two parts, and like hundreds of other plays ends with the final love scene. You must know that when the play first started it had no Hampton scenes. You must have read how Jane Addams and other high-souled people condemned it, and how, after such condemnation, the agents of the play, like true Pennsylvania gang politicians, went out and got some "respectable" pictures of Hampton Institute to hide their nefarious purpose. Yes, I agree that it does teach a lesson in politics, but I'm sorry such an experienced reformer as yourself was deceived.

Thoughtful colored people all over this country are wondering why Hampton has made no protest against such use of her pictures. Referring to politics again many are asking if this is the way our best friends are taken away from us?

The play is based upon the "Clansman." Have you read it? Its purpose is clear, and that is to create prejudice against the Negro. Do you know Mr. Dixon, the author, and his record of hate for the Negro for twenty years? If you do you can easily see you are mistaken in what you call the purpose of the play.

Do you know why the play has not come to Philadelphia yet? Why it has gone to nearly every large city in the east before attempting to come here? The reason is that the "Clansman," which was attempted here, aroused a riot here seven years ago, and the mayor forbade it because he knew bloodshed was probable. Now the shrewd managers are trying to get good friends of the Negro to prepare the way for them, so that if the Negroes object they will have no sympathizers, and thus you are unwittingly being used.

Of course, if you were a Negro you could see what now is impossible for you to understand. If you had had unoffensive relatives murdered by the Klu Klux you would understand; if you had seen Negroes shot down in the streets merely to force them to "keep their place" as I have seen; if you had had a mob come to your own door and threaten to shoot yourself and family if you did not deliver some innocent Negro whom they wanted to lynch as I have witnessed; if you had had a long pistol pointed into your face, being threatened with instant death if you did not leave premises where it was your duty to remain, as I have experienced, then you would not commend a play which exalts the lyncher and the night rider.

Then if you could tell what the meaning of race prejudice is, you might understand what some Negroes understand. If you were stranger in a great city, and could get nowhere to lay your head; if you had been turned from place after place in your quest for a meal for no other reason than that you were a Negro, and had actually fallen in the street from weakness on account of lack of food as I have done; if you had been arrested for disorderly conduct simply because you requested service in a decent way, as I have been threatened with a dozen times; if you had been refused admission to a hospital merely because you are colored, you could understand what race prejudice is, and you would not encourage anything which tends to increase it.

But God is just. The Negro may be robbed of everything but his faith in God. God has just shown this nation where the lawless spirit of lynching will lead in that He has permitted Leo Frank, a white man, to be lynched. While "The Birth of a Nation" intends only to spread hatred against Negroes, it cannot control the hate it spreads. As race hatred is now having its gala day in Europe, it will some day have it here, and as the nation paid dearly fifty years ago, it will pay again. I do not know how, but as surely as God lives, I know it will pay. For God has not intended the black man to be crushed. The white man could not kill the Negro race as a slave race; he will be less able to kill it as a race of freemen. And yet our trust is not in carnal weapons—it is only in God. As long as we want a Christianity with the Negro left out of its brotherhood, God will curse our hypocrisy.

But let me not stray from the subject, "The Birth of a Nation." When I saw the play I failed to see wherein a nation was born. In other words, I could not see the reason for the name except to use the old trick of the corrupt politicians of placing the label of "Protection" on his ticket when he meant only to rob.

But lest I have wearied you too much, I close. I trust you will accept this in the frank spirit in which I write. I beg to assure you of the very high personal regard I entertain for you, and of my firm belief in the pure sincerity of your statement. This is why I write to you at such length. The Negroes think so much of you as their friend, they are pained that you are so far misled, and that you have been published as highly praising that which every thoughtful Negro is convinced is a part of the greatest propaganda ever started to create and justify race prejudice, which will, I believe, do much more to cause the death of this nation than the birth of that ideal nation which some of us hope the future holds in store for us; not when white men will hate Negroes and lynch them and drive them from their homes, and debauch their women and stand unafraid; not when Negro men shall, in the weakness of the flesh try to retaliate, but when men, real men, will not only beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; but when, even in their industry, they shall no longer have race hatred and sectional prejudice but in the unity of high purposes and ideals they may live together as becometh children of God.

With all sincerity,

R. R. WRIGHT, JR.

Dr. Abbey promptly replied to us that she felt convinced by our argument. Moreover, she sent a reply to the Ledger who published it as follows:

"To the Editor of the Evening Ledger:

Sir—Finding that a large number of my Afro-American friends are feeling very much hurt that one whom they have looked on as truly devoted to the interests of their race should have approved a play that they consider increases race prejudice, I want to state that it is just because I am acquainted with so high a type of Afro-American, and because Mr. Griffith, the author of the play, recognized the type of men and women who have arisen, by showing scenes of Hampton, that I confined my remarks to what I perceived still exists—the exploitation of ignorant people, both white and colored, by politicians, who make racial progress subordinate to party interest.

But who can be better able to decide what is prejudicial to the interest of the race than those who have risen to positions of social eminence, notwithstanding prejudice, and when these tell me such pictures as 'Gus, the Renegade,' intensifies race hatred and embitters the lives of the large majority of Negroes, and when I know that white men take advantage of Negro girls oftener than Negro men pursue white ones, I feel that it is only a matter of justice and wise foresight on the part of those in authority to eliminate those pictures that serve no good purpose and are proved by those who have the interest of their race deeply at heart to be productive of bad effects.

CHARLOTTE ABBEY, M. D.

Philadelphia, August 23.

Birth of Nation Case To Be Tried Today

After two postponements, the hearing of misdemeanor charges brought by the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People against producers of "The Birth of a Nation" film will be held at 2 p.m. today before Magistrate House in the Jefferson Market Court.

The case had been set for yesterday on a few hours' notice, but a day's time was asked by Martin W. Littleton, an attorney for the defense, who has been engaged on an important murder case. A formidable array of witnesses is expected to be marshaled before the court for the complainants.

SENTENCE SUSPENDED IN "CLANSMAN" CASE

Howard Schactle, the young artist man who gave vent to his indignation at the vicious misrepresentations of the Negro as shown in the picture version of Dixon's "Clansman," now showing at the Liberty Theatre, by throwing eggs at the screen, appeared before Justice Duell on Monday morning of this week, and was tried for disorderly conduct.

His defense was conducted by Counselor James C. Thomas, Jr., who succeeded in procuring a suspension of sentence from the judge. The prosecution was in the hands of Assistant District Attorney Hill.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures
Advertiser 1-10-15

The Birth of a Nation

Mrs. C. J. Sharp, State Historian, Alabama Div., U. D. C.

I could no more describe to you this great picture, "The Birth of a Nation," than could I convey to you the expression in the eyes of the wonderful Mona Lisa. It is the spirit back of both, that makes them so marvelous—but greater still is the inspiration, given to D. W. Griffith to impart to this commercial age that spirit. I was not surprised to know that Mr. Griffith was the son of a Confederate officer, for while the play is impartial, the spirit of it is that which has forever immortalized the Confederate soldier.

* * * * *

It was my privilege to attend a matinee when the Confederate veterans were the guests of a local newspaper. The boxes and best seats were filled with the boys in gray, older and sadder than when those stirring scenes were enacted, but as I listened to the old yell, at the sight of the tattered flag, I knew hat spirit would be here until the last had joined Lee and Jackson, and then pray God may be given their sons and daughters. I made a point of asking many if it was historically true. With streaming eyes and trembling lips each replied, today I have lived over those days, nothing could be more accurate. I wonder if it could have been the suggestion of their minds that took possession of mine and made me live again with them, the agony of not only the war, but the even greater struggle of the Reconstruction Days. I have always loved the Confederacy that to me is an inheritance, but I had never realized the fullness of my love until I saw in life as it were the anguish of my people. It must have been my loved ones did not tell me the full sacrifice of it all, for fear the bitterness might mar my vision of life, or was it with them as with the soldiers who threw dice under the shadow of the cross, where the greatest tragedy of all eternity was being enacted, the very nearness keeping them from the true realization. I think no written history can give to this united country the truth of the war of secession as vividly as will his great pageant, "The Birth of a Nation."

* * * * *

I am very happy that it was given to an Alabama man to enact the role of hero. He did not act, he looked the part, he lived the part. Mr. Henry Walthall will always be to me the Little Colonel, who if it was not his privilege to have lived in those days, gave you the feeling that the soul of young Pelham spoke to you again. It was so perfect that it seems unfair to single out one individual instance, but if I should, I think it would be the Ku Klux Klan. The South has not been done justice in this by even Southern historians. We have been led to look on this as an organization of outlaws, more than in truth as they are the preservers of our nation. Through this picture, the Ku Klux stand forever vindicated, when that vast array of white-robed men avenge the wrongs to their women and gain control of the ballot box, you feel that we are today what we are because of the undying valor of the Ku Klux Klan.

I shall now quote an excerpt from some criticisms from well known writers, who tell of it as vividly as it is possible for words to speak:

* * * * *

"Only an historically perfect treatment could bring the realism, the fire and tears 'The Birth of a Nation" wrings from those who see it. In the South, the cheers and the sobs came as memories. Old men and women live again the scenes burned into their hearts. Young men and women see unfolded before their eyes the stories they heard from grandfather's lips.

"In the North, the cheers and the sobs are there, too. But the cheers and the sobs in Boston were the tribute of a reunited country to the valor and suffering of brothers and sisters.

"The educational value of the film is priceless. Griffith, by his genius, has summoned the past century into life again, and has registered it forever.

"As an educational vehicle, 'The Birth of a Nation' has justified itself, even as it has raised the motion picture art to its pinnacle.

"I had thought to 'grip' an audience, to hold, to melt it into tears with pathos, to thrill it with heroic sentiment, required the spoken word and the magic of the human voice; but 'The Birth of a Nation' disproves all of this theory by playing upon the heart like a harp of a thousand strings, working it up into a perfect frenzy, by its pathos and humor, tragedy and glory, at which people laughed and sobbed, and sobbed and laughed, and yet never a word was spoken.

"Purely from the standpoint of acting as an applied art, 'The Birth of a Nation' should be seen by every lover of the stage."

LAURA J. SHARP.

Advertiser 4-20-15

William M. Trotter, the Boston negro who offended President Wilson some months ago, became engaged in a racial disturbance at the entrance of a Boston theatre where a "reconstruction moving picture" was being exhibited, and at the end of the trouble Trotter found that he had been mauled in the face by a policeman's club. Let's make that cop Chief of Police of Boston.

CHARLESTON BARS "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 31.—The united efforts of the citizens here under the courageous leadership of Rev. F. H. Gow and a committee of leading citizens the notorious photo play, "Birth of a Nation," is prohibited by ruling of the Supreme Court of Virginia, sustaining injunction proceedings instituted by the city of Charleston.

"Rebel Yell" Adds Realism To "The Birth of a Nation'

McIntyre and Heath, Greatest of Blackface Artists, Score Hit at the Forsyth. Pietro Pleases Big Audience.

The realism of "The Birth of a Nation," the great moving picture playing at the Atlanta theater, was enhanced almost to reality itself yesterday afternoon, when the "rebel yell" rose above the music of the orchestra and more than 100 confederate veterans followed, in spirit, at least, "the little colonel" through hell before Petersburg and charged him down the dim avenues of the night with the Ku Klux.

The veterans of the Soldiers' home were the guests of the Atlanta theater at the matinee performance of "The Birth of a Nation," in the afternoon. The gray-haired youths of yesterday occupied the best seats of the house free, and their enjoyment of the picture was quite as much a treat as the picture itself.

It has necessarily come to pass that every man who sees "The Birth of a Nation," being human, becomes forthwith a walking advertisement of the great scenic opera, for the music accompanying the picture makes it nothing less than an opera. But there has not been and will not be an audience who appreciate the great picture more than that of Monday afternoon. There was no lengthy discussion and airing of views. There was no discussion and analysis of the picture. There was no wonderment at art. This audience LIVED the picture! This audience KNEW!

This was the commendation:

"Well, I was with Lee at Appomattox; I guess I ought to know!"

"I took that oath fifty years and more ago, and I haven't told anything yet, but somebody surely told somebody something!"

"I ain't saying I was a Ku Klux, because we were not allowed to tell, but I saw how the Ku Klux worked."

"I remember the day I went to the polls, and they wouldn't let me—me, a white man—vote."

These and a hundred other comments were the commendations by such authority as cannot be gone back of.

These and some tears and the "rebel yell"—a little thin, perhaps, and at times a little broken and not so husky as two score and ten years ago, but—nevertheless, the "rebel yell!"

NEGROES OBJECT TO MOVIES

Tell Mayor Mitchell Civil War Film Will Cause a Race War.

New York, March 30.—A delegation of negroes accompanied by Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen Wise and Frederick C. Howe, commissioner of immigration, to-day called on Mayor Mitchel and told him that unless he puts the ban on a civil war film being displayed at New York motion picture theaters, he will have a race war on his hands.

The negroes claim that the film maligns and degrades their race and told the Mayor they wouldn't answer for what happened unless it is taken off the screen. Mayor Mitchel said that he had censored several scenes and that was as far as he could go.

NEW YORK WORLD

A Measure of Negro Progress.

To the Editor of The World:

May a negro make a statement in answer to your well-meant and able editorial entitled "A Race Outraged" in The World bearing date March 27?

I have witnessed the photo-play mentioned, and have advised the people of our race to do likewise—to see and know how we have progressed, to realize that we are past the buffoon stage, that courage and determination of purpose have and are letting us occupy a dignified position in the world, that so-called "race prejudice" does not exist except in the hearts of narrow-minded people of both white and black races.

The news columns of your paper teem with "race hatred" as exemplified in Europe to-day—nations destroyed, cities laid waste, the arts of centuries in ruins, old age and infants killed, women defiled, by the warring white nations with ages of education and refinement behind them; while the negro race goes steadily forward with the help and consideration of our glorious American Nation.

If any of my people think to wear the race-outraged cap, let him or her do so; I do not feel called upon to even try its fit. MITCHELL JACKSON.

New York, March 28.

AUGUSTA CENSORS ASK BAN ON "NIGGER" FILM

Constitution 7-12-15

Augusta, Ga., July 11.—(Special.)—The Augusta censorship committee, composed of women who are keeping a close watch on the character of the films shown at the various local houses, has requested the managers not to allow "The New Governor" ("The Nigger") to appear here. It had already been announced that one of the houses had made arrangements for its production in Augusta.

BIRTH OF NATION ORDINANCE DEFEATED BY THE ALDERMEN

Proposed By Councilman Pitt and Passed By Common Council Monday Night.

LOST IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN BY ONE VOTE

Mayor Says He Cannot Interfere; Vicious Photo-Play May Be Stopped By Injunction

The citizens' fight on the appearance in Norfolk of the Dixon photo-play "The Birth of a Nation," was temporarily halted on the floor of the City Council Wednesday night when by a vote of six to five the following ordinance introduced in the Common Council by Councilman J. J. Pitt and passed Monday night by that body, was referred to the ordinance committee by the Board of Aldermen, thus defeating the object of the ordinance:

The Pitt Ordinance

AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE EXHIBITION OF ANY MOVING PICTURE OR THEATRICAL SHOW TO CAUSE ILL FEELING, PREJUDICE OR HATRED BETWEEN THE RACES.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORFOLK.

Section 1. It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to publicly show or exhibit in any place in the City of Norfolk, any picture, or series of pictures by any device known as a mutescope, kinetoscope cinematograph, kinemacolor, penny, arcade, moving picture, or any vaudeville act, drama, play, theatrical song, or stage or platform performance, which portrays brutality, or which tends to incite racial hatred or prejudice, or that shall represent or purport to represent any hanging, lynching, burning or placing in a position of ignominy of any human being, or to do any other act which tends to incite racial prejudice or hatred.

Section 2 That any violation of this ordinnce shall be punished by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars or more than five hundred dollars, and each public show or exhibit shall constitute a seperate offense.

Section 3 That the provsion of this ordinance shall apply to any person engaged or assisting in any part of the work attendent upon anv performance, show or exhibiti on prohibited by this ordinance.

This ordinance shall be in force from its passage and all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict here with are repealed.

When the ordinance was read Alderman J. A. Deering of Madison Ward moved that the body concur with the Cmmon Council, Alderman S. A. Markel of Adams Ward moved that it be referred to committee and Alderman Adam Christe of Monroe Ward, moved that the whole matter to be referred to the Mayor with power to act. Argument that consumed three hours followed, Aldermen Deering and Jones and Judge James S. Barron and P. B. Young speaking for the ordinance and Aldermen Markel and Christe and Attorneys Moe Levy and T. H. Wilcox speaking against the ordinance. At the conclusion of the argument the fight was lost by a vote of six to five, as follows: For the ordinance: Deering, Jones, Metzer, White and Truxton. 5 Against the ordinance: Butler, Cashin, Christe, Friary, Long, Markel. 6.

The Fight On The Film

When it was learned that Dixon's photo-play was booked to appear here, a committee from the Colored Social Service Committee composed of Rev. J. H. Ashby, C. C. Dogan, C. A. Palmer, Dr. A. L. Paey, P. B. Young and M. E. Diggs, held a conference with the committee on "Negro Affairs" of the Norfolk Bureau of Social Service, (white). Following this conference there was an interview with the theatre management and a representative of the photo-play, which availed nothing in the way of results.

The Colored Social Service Committee next addressed a letter of protest to Mayor Wyndam R. Mayo. To this letter the Mayor replied that he had no authority to stop the exhibition here of the play. It was then that Editor P. B. Young of the Journal and Guide called on Councilman J. J. Pitt of Washington Ward, who consented to take the fight to the City Council and offer an ordinance that would cover the situation.

Judge Barron Comes To Aid Of Colored Citizens

An interview with Former Police Justice James S. Barron found him as usual ready to enlist in a fight in behalf of "right against might." At Mr. Pitt's request he drafted the ordinance printed above, and on the floor of the Council gave it his vigorous support, making a fight for it that challenged the admiration of even those who opposed the ordinance. Judge Barron's argument before the Common Council Monday night was a classic. His argument Wednesday night before the Aldermen was equally as forceful and brilliant, more than matching the legal efforts of Judge Wilcox and Attorney Moe Levy who opposed the interests of the colored citizens. Mr. Levy was unsentimental. He saw only the financial interests of his clients and felt that the aesthetic culture of Norfolk would suffer if the play was forbidden. Judge Wilcox started his argument by professing keen regard for the thirty-five thousand colored people of Norfolk, a great many of whom were numbered among his clients, and then launched into a forty-five minutes defense of the "Birth of a Nation" and Thomas Dixon's other productions.

The editor of this paper was extended the privilege of the floor by the Aldermen Wednesday night to speak for the colored delegation present. He reviewed the disturbances that had occurred in other cities where the play had been exhibited, contended that it was calculated to create racial hatred and strife if presented here, even in expurgated form, as the play could not be so modified as to retain any of its original character and at the same time lose any of its repulsiveness. He quoted from eminent criticisms on the play and quoted Dr. Frederick C. Howe, ex-president of the National Board of Censors to show that the board was not unanimous in its approval of the film.

Messers. Deering, White And Jones Support Ordinance

Stalwart support was given the ordinance by Aldermen Howell H. Jones and J. Elmer White of Monroe Ward and J. A. Deering of Madison Ward. Mr. Deering moved that the Aldermen concur with the Common Council in the adoption of the measure and supported his motion with argument, as did Mr. Jones.

Major Truxton And Mr. Metzer On The Right Side

Major I. Walke Truxton, who is president of the Board of Aldermen, took the floor after the reading of the ordinance and stated that he was not prepared to vote intelligently for lack of information, but that he was open to conviction. He patiently heard argument and then recorded his vote for the ordinance.. Mr. Metzer's attitude was never in doubt. When interviewed Tuesday by the associate editor of this paper he stated that he was opposed to the exhibition here of any play that would incite raical strife and he voted his convictions.

The Opposition

Messrs S. A. Markel, T. M. Cashin, J. G. Long, A. C. Friary, A. Christie and H. L. Butler. Get the names. Look up their nationality and then think of what happened to poor Leo Frank in Georgia on account of racial hatred.

Common Council Passes Ordinance

That the proposed ordinance was adopted by the Common Council on Monday night is due largely to the vigorous and manly leadership of Councilman John J. Pitt of Washington Ward. Mr. Pitt is the councilman who cast the one solitary vote against the segregation ordinance because he believed that "human rights were above property rights," and "might did not make right." He was ably supported in his fight by Dr. Baird, councilman from Washington Ward, who made a vigorous speech denouncing the play as being unfit to exhibit before a Southern audience. The vote in the Common Council was as follows:

Ayes: Baird, Horton, Hozier, Minter, Peebles, Pitt, Wiggs 7.

Noes: Burke, Crockin, Johnson, Rubaiz. 4.

Before The Mayor

On Tuesday morning the following colored citizens representing the Social Service Committee appeared before Mayor Mayo to protest against the appearance of the film here: Messrs J. H. Ashby, C. C. Dogan, C. A. Palmer, P. B. Young and J. M. Harrison. At the same hearing appeared Mr. Otto Wells, of the Wells Theatre interests and his attorney, Mr. Moe Levy. The mayor heard argument against the film by P. B. Young, C. A. Palmer and Attorney Harrison and argument for it by Mr. Levy. At the conclusion of the hearing which lasted three hours the Mayor announced that there was no ordinance or statute under which he had authority to forbid the play. He expressed his sympathy for the colored citizens and suggested that they seek to stop the play by mandamus or injunction.

ROLL OF HONOR

Those Who Voted For the Ordinance

ALDERMEN

J. A. Deering
I. Walke Truxton
J. Elmer White
Nathan Metzger
H. H. Jones

COMMON COUNCIL

J. J. Pitt
Dr. T. E. Baird
W. J. Hozier
W. T. Ham
W. A. Minter
P. P. Peebles
I. O. Wiggs

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

SOME PERSONAL NOTES ON DIXON

He Has Always Been Erratic and a Disturbing Genius in Public Affairs

The New York
OPINION OF HOME FOLKS
Age 5/20/15

Gained Reputation While a Young Man as Supporter of Movements Which Were Calculated to Injure Best Interests of People.

LAWYER TURNED PREACHER

Inflated Self-Conceit Because of a Fancied Resemblance to Lincoln—With Greed for Money, he Capitalizes Prejudice to Pecuniary Profit for Himself.

Special to The New York Age.

GREENSBORO, N. C., May 18.—That Tom Dixon has always been a disturber of the peace of the people and a perverter of moral influence is brought out most clearly in the subjoined letter, written by a man who has known Dixon during the greater part of his life. Contact between the two began, as the writer puts it, early in the eighties, when Dixon was a law student in this town.

It is shown in this letter that Dixon's bump of conceit was increased considerably when some of his youthful admirers discovered that he bore a fancied resemblance to Abraham Lincoln. It is thought this accounts for his present attitude in posing as an interpreter of Lincoln's sentiments. During a short period in the state legislature he gained some unenviable prominence by opposing a bill intended to promote morality and decency.

For obvious reasons the identity of the writer of this interesting letter is not disclosed, but the editor of THE AGE has personal knowledge of his responsibility and truthfulness.

Who is Tom Dixon, Jr., Anyway?

The letter follows:

To the Editor of The Age:

As an evidence, in part, of the estimate in which Tom Dixon is held by his own people in his native state, read what the "Greensboro Daily Record" has to say of him in comparison with his brother, Frank Dixon:

> Mr. Dixon, who spoke before the Chautauqua last night is a brother of Tom Dixon, but a different type of man, though equally as entertaining and less of a crank.

But who is Tom Dixon, Jr., anyway, who has for over a decade made it his wicked business to capitalie the savage instincts in the white man of this country by appealing to his race prejudice? Here is a little bit of history, which may be somewhat interesting in throwing a little light on the early career of this gentleman.

The first time the writer ever knew or saw Thomas Dixon was when he was studying law in Greensboro, N. C. sometime in the 80's. He was wont to stride the streets of the city, feeling rather "chesty" because he had been told by some of his admirers that he bore a likeness to the lamented Abraham Lincoln. Little did we think then that this character was destined to be so much a disturber of the peace and harmony which would exist between the races in different sections of the country but for his exaggerated and nefarious novels, dramas and photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation."

Dixon Opposed Moral Measures.

Soon after graduating in law, before Dixon was elected by the white voters of his native county (Shelby) to represent them in the state legislature. It is a matter of public record that, while he was a member fo the legislature, Dixon usually took the initiative and became the leader of a small minority opposing any measure having for its object the maintenance of a high moral standard among the people of the state.

For instance, one of the most important and vital measures that was warmly discussed in the legislature at that time, was a bill introduced to prohibit the sale from the news stands and in the book stores and other places in the state of such questionable pictorial publications as the "Days Doings," etc. The main object of this bill was distinctively emphasized by the members in favor of it, to be to prevent, as far as possible, the corrupting of the morals of the youth and others who might be weak in this particular by keeping out of the state publications whose pages appealed to the base and lower animal instincts and passions by throwing lewd and vulgar female forms in suggestive pictures.

Tom Dixon, however, as the spokesman of a few misguided members like himself, strenuously opposed the bill but in vain. It became a law by a very large vote.

Changes Profession, but not Principles.

Dixon was severely criticized and denounced by every leading paper in the state for being an advocate of the agents of vice and evil instead of virtue and goodness. The Hon. Josephus Daniels, secretary of the navy, was at the time editor of the "Daily Chronicle" or the "News Observer" and in a leading editorial on the bill before the legislature, characterized Thos. Dixon as "a brilliant but erratic genius."

Soon after his legislative experience, which was a failure and fortunately brief, Dixon decided to change front; so putting on "the delivery of heaven to serve the devil in," he next posed as a minister of the gospel (God save the mark) and served one or two charges in this state.

Realizing that his field for devilment was too small here and his services not appreciated as his wicked aspirations desired, he pulled up stake and emigrated to Brooklyn, N. Y. where after becoming a dismal failure as pastor of an independent church which he there established, he finally decided to cast aside the false garb in which he had been parading before the publib and disclose himself in his true character.

What that is, unfortunately is too well-known, as it is disgracefully revealed in his publications written for the vicious purpose of exploiting and commercializing race prejudice to gratify his unholy ambition—to make money.

We must confess our surprise and disappointment in the Northern white people, who pretend to be friends to the Negro, would for one minute tolerate such a damnable photoplay as "The Birth of a Nation" which is absolutely false from beginning to end, and an outrageous slander of an innocent, helpless struggling race.

Here in his own native state, as well as in the leading cities of the South, "The Birth of a Nation" would either be prohibited; or receive "a frost," as "The Clansman" did, when Dixon attempted to introduce it here a few years ago.

Therefore when we review the career of Thos. Dixon, Jr. we are inevitably led to the conclusion that, it is as impossible to change the inmate characteristics of some persons as it is to change "the leopard spots," etc.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST ALL VICIOUS PHOTO PLAYS

The prevalence at this time of photo plays based on stories which have the race question as a theme, the plays in every instance presenting the Negro in an objectionable light, is causing the race in all sections of the country to enter vigorously into a campaign which will prevent the showing of these plays in their respective cities.

Dr. Booker T. Washington has issued from Tuskegee Institute, Ala., a timely word of warning to the race in all sections of the country, emphasizing the advisability of adopting preventory tactics before the pictures can secure a foothold, as it will be much easier to prevent their coming in than to stop them after they get in. The following is the text of Dr. Washington's warning:

Adopt Measures in Advance.

To the Editor of The Age:

I wish to urge our people everywhere to "take time by the forelock" and adopt in advance such measures as will prevent the production of the photoplay, "THE BIRTH OF A NATION" in any community, North or South. It will be a serious and grave mistake to wait until the pictures are actually being exhibited in these cities and then attempt to close them up.

Another and more important reason for taking preventive measures is that once the play has been put on in a skilfully initiate opposition on account city, the managers encourage and ever of the advertising the play receives when attempts are made to stop it. The people in Chicago are acting very wisely in forestalling its appearance; and this is the policy which it would be well for every community to pursue.

In each town where there is a possibility of this play being put on, it would be well to have a committee of citizens representing the churches, the schools and the business men to take the initiative in lodging a suitable objection.

The play is fundamentally wrong in that it attempts to deal with the development of America since the abolition of slavery by ignoring the substantial progress of the Negro race and emphasizing the cruel misunderstandings of the readjustment period in which unfortunate individuals of both races figured. No matter, how many other artistic and historic features the play may have, its ultimate result will be to intensify the race predjudice and thereby do great and lasting harm to both races.

(Signed) BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

Chicago Mayor Bars Play.

Chicago, Ill., May 18.—Thomas Dixon's "Birth of a Nation" which has caused such a furor all over the East, will not be shown in Chicago as long as Mayor Thompson is in office. The mayor gave his final answer on this question a few days ago, saying there would be no production of this play in this city during his four years as mayor. He said that he would use all the power vested in his office as mayor to stop this play, "The Birth of a Nation" or any other play reflected on any race or nationality. He had been informed that this particular play, "The Birth of a Nation" had been the cause of race riots in the East and that the play was an insult to the colored people of this country.

He therefore decided that there should be none of that in Chicago as long as he is mayor of this city.

In the effort to stop the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation," which has been going on for two months in New York City, the following strong letter has been addressed to Mayor John Purroy Mitchel, by Miss Rosalie C. Jonas, a southern white woman living in New York, and who is prominently identified with the suffragist movement. Miss Jonas' letter is as follows:

To Mayor Mitchell:—

Dear Sir:—

May we not turn to you, as representatives of all races and classes in this great city, to beg you to act promptly and with justice to the Negro in this matter of the movie entitled "The Birth of a Nation?" From its misleading title to its sacreligious ending, it is an affront to all the decent people of this community, and a gratuitous insult to our law-abiding and self-respecting colored citizens. It is a malicious and mercenary attempt to reopen old sores, reawaken old emnities between the North and South. It prejudices by a false presentment of the slave of the past, and makes progress harder for the already unjustly handicapped freeman of to-day.

If you allow it to continue here, it will perhaps arouse a dangerous condition of race and sectional feeling that will poison a community free, so far, from that curse. It is not the first time that the Devil has donned holy garb or made a mockery of Christ's mage, and this spectacular creation ends, after making a "Roman holiday" of the assassination of Lincoln and deliberately desseminating hate for three hours, with a hypocritical whine of "Brotherly love."

Dear Mr. Mayor, won't you do better for us than those who "passed" this vicious and vulgar film, and prove yourself once more the embodiment of the truly democratic spirit of this town

I have made this letter personal, because I wish to protest both as a Sothern woman and a citizen of New York; but I am sending you also affixed in protest, the signatures of some who may be better known to you.

(Signed) ROSALIE C. JONAS.

From out in Spokane, Washington, comes a letter telling of the fight made by the Negroes of that city against the photo play, "The Nigger," which had been presented in other Pacific coast towns. The people of Portland, Tacoma and Seattle had given it a black eye, even the whites withholding their patronage.

When it appeared in Spokane, being billed for the Liberty Theatre, a delegation from the Colored Men's Business League waited on the mayor and protested against the production. The mayor issued orders that the play could only be produced under certain restrictions and provisions. The management found that the theatre management was advertising the play by means of large placards placed on wagons and sent about the city streets, displaying the title. A protest was immediately made the manager of the theare, who was advised of the friction it would cause, and he promptly withdrew the advertising from the streets.

RACE MEN OPPOSE SHOWING THE NIGGER

Chicago Defender Arouses Members of Race to Protest Against the Showing of Pictures Tending to Arouse Race Hatred.

The Chicago Defender

(Special to The Fred H. Gresham.)

Cedar Rapids, Ia., May 14.—Sunday being Mothers' day, the churches here devoted in memory of the occasion. Sunday afternoon a mass meeting was held at Bethel A. M. E. Church to get the sentiment of the progressive citizens in denouncing all moving pictures being shown that tends to excite race preju-

dice, hatred or animosity among the races of Cedar Rapids. Mr. W. H. Milligan was elected chairman, Mrs. Fred H. Gresham secretary. The cause of the meeting was brought about by the picture of "The Nigger," being shown at the Palace Theater, showing the lynching, burning to the stake and selling the race in fetters. A gulf of human beings burned and whipped when trying to escape from fire. Some of the citizens seem to think it was all right. Mrs. Fred Gresham, Mrs. Carrie Perkins, Miss Audrie Meargan, Mrs. Julia McGee, Mrs. Mattie Morgan went before the city council Friday morning to protest against the picture being shown, having a Defender showing where the Clansman was barred in New York and read the same from the chairman of the censor board, and "The Birth of a Nation" being protested against. The council consented to stop the show but instead when the ladies visited the theater in the afternoon it was shown. The chief of police in an interview said with the exception of the lynching and burning the show was O. K. However, it was held for nearly an hour. On interviewing the mayor Saturday he said the race was too sensitive. And as there was no censor board they did not know anything about the films and he had ordered all the objectionable part cut out, but on Saturday the pastors, Revs. Northcross and Coto, W. H. Milligan, Mesdames Wattson, McGee and Gresham visited the theater and the film was shown, but the burning scene was thrown on the screen and right off. Just such pictures are what cause so much trouble. Speeches were made Sunday by Mr. Chas. Searcy, Greene, R. E. McGee, H. Flowers, W. W. Milligan, Mrs. Fred Gresham, Rev. Northcross and Rev. Coto, after which a motion was made by Mr. Luther Lawrey that steps be taken to organize a N. A. A. of C. P. which was carried unanimously. A committee was appointed to go before the council Monday morning and present the resolutions voicing the sentiment of the progressive citizens in protest against all pictures of similar character be barred in the city in the future. Rev. Ford presented the case at the ministers' meeting Monday, as Revs. Coto and Northcross, were with the commitee at the city council the mayor was very considerate after being cited to several incidents in the city and the closing of theater that showed the film, "Why Priest Should Wed," for one week. He had the authority to do it and as it showed a religious body, the Catholics of the city protested. Why not we protest, as the picture is detrimental to any Afro-American with race pride. Some of the citizens regret the step taken as they were afraid it would hurt them in their work and going to the picture show. One porter says if raising his voice against such insults to the race make him lose his job he is not afraid to seek another. As soon as the organizer for the N. A. A. of C. P. can arrange to come to Cedar Rapids we will go on record as citizens working for the uplift of the race. We would like to hear from some of the race men and women, on what we have done as it may help to open the eyes of some of our people who are not in sympathy with what has been done. Thanks to Editor P. S. Abbott in sending the reply to the letter, saying "Mayor Thompson says no play hurtful to any race shall show in Chicago." And we hope the mayor of our city will soon awake to the realization that the same rule will be good applied here, and instead of cutting part of the film, will put a ban on the whole picture. * * * The Colored Jubilee Singers of Cedar Rapids gave their first concert at Ellis Park Sunday afternoon. * * * Mrs. Amelia Jackson is improving after being confined to her home for a week. * * * Mrs. Maud Robinson is quite ill at her home, 1302 L avenue, and will be glad to see her friends. * * * Mr. John Jackson is improving after a hard fight. He has been confined to his home with typhoid fever. * * * Mr. Tom Lowrey and Mrs. Mamie Williams of Kansas City were married in Marion Saturday, May 2. They slipped quietly away from their friends and were married. Mr. Tom Lowrey is a master plumber and has lived in Cedar Rapids since a boy, and has a beautiful residence corner Ninth avenue, and has built a garage. Mrs. William Lowrey is a very brilliant woman and her daughter, Miss Marie Williams, is attending high school. We extend our hearty congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Lowrey. They will be glad to see their many friends. * * * The Defender will be for sale at Mr. Jones' grocery, North Third street, and Mr. Fields' restaurant, 221 Second street. * * * Mr. John Thompson, editor of the Iowa State By-Stander, was in the city last week soliciting for his paper. Mr. Thompson is Grand Master of Iowa. While in the city he was the guest of Mr. C. E. Thomas.

JURNAL MAIL BAG

ays Whites Should Resent Birth of a Nation"

o the Editor of The Boston Journal:

Having seen the moving picture show called "The Birth of a Nation," and found it to be very different from what I had been led to expect, I am strongly impressed that the controlling reason why it ought to be excluded from exhibition in Massachusetts has not been brought out as it should be.

I suppose its most offensive feature to be its defamation of the negro. Much as I object to this, on grounds both of justice and policy, the fundamental objection to this play lies deeper. It is covert, but most skilful and insidious defamation of the Union cause and apotheosis of slavery and rebellion. We of the white race should be first to rise against it, and we do ourselves no credit by leaving it to our colored fellow-citizens to protest.

With the exception of the Lincoln episodes, where it cunningly defers to a sentiment that cannot safely be trifled with even in the law-abiding North—though it is impossible to overlook a touch of coarse caricature in the face of the Lincoln—it is, from the rising of the curtain until the going down of the same, a pack of pictured lies so grotesquely false that but for their malice and their power of mischief, as addressed to the eyes of a generation comparatively uninfirmed, they would be simply laughable.

Of some of the displayed incidents most calculated to exalt rebellion and excite sympathy for the (white) victims of reconstruction, probably there is not one authenticated instance in the whole history of the war and reconstruction period. Purporting to be historical, it is history upside down, a complete inversion of historical truth. If special pains are taken to villify the negro, it is because he is the special object of the propaganda for the repeal of the 14th and 15th amendments of which this play is unquestionably a part and if tolerated will be a subtle and effective instrument.

The most amazing feature of the whole performance is the glorification of the Ku Klux Klan, for which alone it might have been composed. Fancy a depiction of that "secret, black and midnight" horde of lawless ruffians whose career of outrage and murder is unhappily part of the history of the country, as arising out of a chivalrous purpose to protect white women against negro lust, drawing applause, probably sincere, from an honest Massachusetts audience! Yet they emerge at the end with the principal honors of the piece.

This pictorial recrudescence of the rebellion is a gross libel upon the Union cause, upon its public leaders, Lincoln only excepted, upon every soldier, living or dead, who fought for it, and upon the whole people who supported it. Slavery and rebellion were right, the South was outraged by emancipation, the attempt to secure the negro in his freedom was a crime for which wholesale murder was the proper remedy, the negro was unfit for freedom and is unfit for civil rights, the Yankees were vandals, the rebels the true chivalry, and the Ku Klux Klan the heroes of the whole drama. This is the moral of the tale, conveyed with skilful innuendo and most consummate art. It gambles on the public ignorance of our own history, and as a vast majority of people are more impressed by what they see than by what they read or hear, it is liable to win by permanently lodging a radically false conception in the public mind.

The selection of Massachusetts as the field for the introduction of this spectacle to the public, impudent as that is, affords the opportunity to deal with it here as it deserves. In the South, with conditions reversed, such a show and its perpetrators would be lynched. This is not the Massachusetts way. But unless we find a way to effectively resent this libel alike upon our citizenry and our history, let us destroy our soldiers' monuments, give the battle flags at the State House to the dust heap, abolish our Memorial day, and confess ourselves unfit to inherit the traditions of Massachusetts, in our impotence to vindicate them or the memory of the men who made them.

A. E. PILLSBURY.

Boston.

Resents Latest Attack on "Birth of a Nation"

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

"I have seen a copy of Mr. Pillsbury's letter to the newspapers. His missive is a special brief to cover up the mistakes of his partizans in this matter. They first charged 'The Birth of a Nation' with being immoral and obscene, then shifted the attack to the alleged prejudice they said it exhibited against the negro. They were unable to win over the body of Boston opinion to their views on these grounds. Now Mr. Pillsbury steps to the front and takes a fresh line of attack by denouncing it as 'a covert but most skilful and insidious attack on the Union cause and an apotheosis of slavery and rebellion!'

"Is Mr. Pillsbury still living in and dwelling among the sectional hates of the era of 'slavery and rebellion?' It seems to us he is a veritable Rip Van Winkle of long-bygone animosities. Does he not know that Unionism is held as devotedly by the people of the South as by the people of the North, by Mr. Griffith, the author of this film, as by Mr. Pillsbury himself and his fellows? The blood of Northern and Southern men were spilt together in the Spanish-American War. Another struggle with a foreign power, should this nation again be dragged into war, would again prove the Southerners' whole-hearted, passionate loyalty. Why then this talk about 'insidious attack on the Union cause?' The men and women connected with 'The Birth of a Nation' play do not yield, in their love of the Union, even to Mr. Pillsbury. As a matter of fact, they regard his aspersions as unthinkable. Sons of Union veterans work for the film company, and among the many letters of commendation received by the management there is no line of demarcation between those who wore the Blue and those who wore the Gray.

"If our opponent could rid himself of his Rip Van Winkle mental attitude, he would see 'The Birth of a Nation' as it really is—a historico-fictional romance of the Lost Cause. His attitude is as absurd as that of a Hanoverian protesting Sir Walter Scott's 'Waverley' on the fancied ground of its inciting the restoration of the Stuart kings. Scott shed the halo of romance over a broken dynasty and the long-since-reconciled rebel Highlanders of 60 years previous. Mr. Griffith has done much the same. Of some of the 'displayed incidents' in the story, Mr. Pillsbury tells us there is no historical basis. What of it? Has not every writer of historical novels drawn on imagination to some extent? The letter-writer's misstatement that '"The Birth of a Nation" is a pack of pictured lies' can be readily disproved by reference to Woodrow Wilson's and Fleming's chapters on Reconstruction, and to the voluminous congressional reports on the Ku Klux Klan. The latter are a special subject of Mr. Pillsbury's ire. His characterization of them as a 'secret, black and midnight horde of lawless ruffians' is far wider of the truth than any fictionist's glorification of them as protectors of oppressed Southern whites, which in very many instances they actually and undoubtedly were.

"'Attack on the Union cause!' Mr. Pillsbury's frenzied phrase should make men laugh and the gods weep. The glorification of Unionism in the play includes (1), the reverent treatment of President Lincoln (notwithstanding Mr. Pillsbury's silly sneer); (2), the apotheosis of Daniel Webster and the filming of his immortal sentiment; (3), the dignity and moral grandeur of Grant; (4), the heroism of the Stoneman boys, the protagonists of Northern chivalry; the depiction of the wonderful bravery and knightly qualities of all the Union fighters; the scenes in the federal hospital and the Executive Mansion; the death of Lincoln represented as the loss to the South of its best friend; the final soul-reunion of the nation after troublous Reconstruction in the bonds of love and peace. Such are but a few of the many points that could be cited to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that the realization of national unity, as the title indicates, forms the very breath and life of the drama.

"The producers of 'The Birth of a Nation' are not trying for a repeal of the 14th and 15th Amendments. They are not insidiously attempting to bring back slavery (the very thought provokes a smile), and they are not actuated by political motives. They do not share Mr. Dixon's radical view of a future Liberia for American negroes; over against the imaginative scene of the great Liberia once dreamed of by Lincoln is displayed the happy recount of negro progress and prosperity since the war. And any schoolboy could have told Mr. Pillsbury that the depiction of the antics and excesses of recently freed negroes, as shown in the play during Reconstruction times does not in any manner indict or malign the negro of today.

"In conclusion, we resent the unfounded, biased and prejudiced attempt to impugn the motif and purposes of this art-work of Mr. Griffith's. Our actions and activities have all been lawful and honorable; we have obeyed every request made to us by the properly constituted authorities, and we are exhibiting a play which has already been witnessed and enthusiastically applauded and indorsed by many thousands of Bostonians. To drive 'The Birth of a Nation' out of Boston would mean that no different interpretation of Reconstruction times could obtain free speech in this city save that which is Mr. Pillsbury's, and that of his co-workers in this matter, who, we are convinced, do not represent any considerable faction of the citizenship."

J. J. M'CARTHY,
General manager of "The Birth of a Nation" Company.

Boston, May 4, 1915.

NEGROES MASS-MEETING AT PROTEST AGAINST FILMS

Contributions of $500 Received to Fight "Birth of Nation"

More than 1000 negroes attended a mass-meeting in the Olympia Theatre, Broad and Bainbridge streets, yesterday to protest against the photo film, "The Birth of a Nation," being shown at the Forrest Theatre, and due to which there have been two disturbances in the last two weeks. Ex-State Senator John O. Sheatz presided at the meeting. The other speakers were negro ministers and citizens.

A resolution condemning Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," was passed by the assemblage. It also called upon the Christian and liberty-loving citizens of Philadelphia to repudiate the film. Five hundred dollars was taken up in the collection, and this will be used to defray the expenses of further legal warfare upon the film management. Checks were received by mail from John Weaver, Clinton Rogers Woodruff, J. E. Spingairn and John A. Milholland.

BOSTON CENSORS THE NIGGER

The Tribune

At the request of Censor Johnson Casey the moving picture based on Sheldon's "Nigger" recently exhibited in Boston was modified. Mr. Casey notified the exhibitors that the name was changed by the Nat'l board of censors to the "New Governor" and saw that all printing read correctly. He also had many of the objectionable features eliminated, viz., all those scenes which tended to create the impression that there is an impassible gulf between the white and black races and the scenes suggesting the rape of the white child by the drunken Colored man and the burning at the stake.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

EDITOR MITCHELL TRAVELS

Richmond Planet
1-22-16

"BIRTH OF A NATION"—TRAGIC SCENES EXHIBITED IN SAN FRANCISCO—ON THE WAY TO LOS ANGELES—INTERESTING RECITAL AND PLAIN STATEMENTS.

When I left the Johnson home Saturday morning, it was with a desire to roam over San Francisco, to gaze in the windows, to loiter in the streets and to observe the crowd of shoppers hurrying to and fro. I had my wishes gratified. I purchased some souvenirs, kept off the street-cars and covered many miles in my perambulations through the streets of this truly remarkable California city. San Francisco, though has never impressed me like New York city or even Chicago. To my mind, the city proper resembles Philadelphia more than it does New Orleans. The wonderful Golden Gate, the magnificent park and the salubrious climate are features that appeal to me.

PECULIAR WEATHER CONDITIONS.

But as a "wonder city," I have been disappointed. There was one thing I could not understand. It would be cold in San Francisco, and right across the bay it would be pleasant in Oakland. Many "sky-scrapers" are in evidence in San Francisco and there are colored people there, but nothing like as many as one would see in New York or Chicago. As a matter of fact, I rarely saw colored people in San Francisco. Chinatown is no longer a place of attraction as it was in "days of yore." I went up to the neighborhood, but it seemed deserted. Upon the occasion of my previous visit to the Coast, it was illuminated and the business there was in "full blast," but all of this was changed.

COMMOTION AT THE WHARF.

I had forgotten to state that when I first left the wharf at the ferry, I saw a crowd of Chinamen and then I saw Mayor Rofle, of San Francisco, with his associates. The Chinamen wore silk hats. I could not tell what it was all about, but finally I heard someone say in English, "There he is!" I saw a party of Chinese or Japanese, I had been unable on the Coast to tell one from the other as both now wear their hair cropped close. It was the Ambassador from Washington, and he had his retinue of attendants with him. They were royally received, and they entered the carriages, which were waiting.

TOM DIXON,S PLAY.

I saw no references to the affair in the newspapers and I could not make out just what had taken place. I had seen in the newspapers that the play, "The Birth of a Nation" would be exhibited at one of the theatres and I made up my mind to see this photo-play of the "Clansman" in all of its hideousness for myself. It was scheduled to take place at 2 P. M., and I was at the theatre before that time. I went into the place and took a reserve seat. It was not long before I was flanked by white people, and two elderly white ladies were near me and they discussed the play as it proceeded.

A LADY'S COMMENT.

"It was all a mistake," one of them said. "The Negroes should never have been given those rights and privileges. Poor things, I do not know, though, that they were so much to blame." I read on the screen the first announcement of the management, disclaiming any intention to create race-feeling or to disturb the friendly relationship between the races. The pictures were marvels of excellence from a purely mechanical standpoint, but ridiculously absurd in many particulars to one who had lived in the South-land and knew of many of the incidents, which these pictures professed to portray.

A SOUTHERN SCENE.

I saw the southern scene, of a family of wealthy southerners, who in turn was receiving a northern gentleman into its bosom as its guest, of the declaration of war, of the northerner leaving for his home, after having won the affection of the southern belle. The scene shifted rapidly to the battle scenes, all skillfully made up, of the success of the northern armies despite the valor of the southern ones. Then the poor Negroes were lugged into the play as conceiving all manner of deviltry, whereas, previous to this time, they had been portrayed as friendly house-servants.

HAD RUN SHORT.

The management must have "run short" of Negroes, for some of the leading characters showed themselves to be white people, with blackened faces. I saw the triumphant Union army enter the villages and then the Negro-haters got in their work, portraying black troops as insulting southerners, shoving them off the side-walks, insulting white ladies of the South-land and taking liberties of a kind that tended to arouse the racial feeling in the white people in the audience.

A COLORED LIEUTENANT

I saw a colored man, who was alleged to have been made a Lieutenant Governor by the northerners. He was of light complexion. A conversation took place between him and the white northern statesman, who told him that he was as good as the whites, that he had a right to marry whom he pleased, it mattered not whether the person was white or black. The leering look of gratification was depicted upon the countenance of the colored man. I saw the southern white family over-run and insulted by the black men.

BLACK TROOPS AND THEIR ALLEGED ATROCITIES.

The army of occupation came while the southern colonel defended his home as best he could. Black troops broke in the doors and windows, mistreated the family, and faithful black servants fought the invaders and finally took the family away in a wagon. The race for a country cabin and the fight that ensued was realistic. The devotion of the black servants was sublime. The aim was to misrepresent and discredit the white men of the Union army and to bring to the front the latent, brutish traits in the black people of the South, who had been incited to murder and rapine by the invading white hosts of the North

A REFLECTION UPON NORTHERNERS.

For our part, I saw, or thought I saw, more of a spirit of retaliation and spite against the victorious northern army and its leaders, than I did against the black people of the South, who as shown, had been induced to practice deeds of savagery, hitherto unknown in their humble career under the guidance of their southern masters. Then came the legislative scene in Columbia, South Carolina, when they assembled in the State House with colored men in unquestioned majority. The repeal of the miscegenation laws, better known as the laws forbidding the intermarriage of white and black people in South Carolina was shown with colored legislators addressing the colored lieutenant Governor. The passage of the repeal bill was the cause of the greatest excitement at the hands of these moving picture actors.

THE KU KLUX KLAN.

The fight of the old Colonel for his life in the one-room cabin was realistic. It was also shown that the origin of the Ku Klux Klan came from the fear of colored children of some white children who were covered with a white sheet. The rape scene, where a white child jumps from a precipice and is killed when she attempts to escape from a black man who attempts to outrage her, caused a commotion in the theatre although the alleged black man could be plainly distinguished as a white one with a blackened face. He was a "movie-picture" actor.

WHITE FOLKS SHEDDING TEARS.

I saw white folks shedding tears of sympathy in that theatre, where, I felt quite lonely, being as far as I could see, the only colored person in the house. The only other colored man I saw in that neighborhood sat in an automobile as chauffeur on the outside, waiting for his white folks to come out. I then saw a reproduction of the Ku Klux Klan that I had seen on the streets of Portland, Oregon. They numbered countless hundreds as reproduced upon the "movie" films. I had seen these these misrepresentations placed before a class of white people who had no means of separating false from the true, the good from the bad.

THE SCENE AT WASHINGTON.

I had sickened over the play and I felt that I was out of place in that theatre, that Saturday afternoon. I saw the scene of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the martyred President, after the scene where he had granted a pardon to the southerner, the son of a planter, who had been condemned to death as a spy. The theatre at Washington was shown, John Wilkes Booth, long since dead, was portrayed as leaping upon the stage, yelling "Sic-semper tyrannis" (So be it to tyrants). The result of this insane action was shown. I saw the representations of Gen. U. S. Grant and Gen. Robert E. Lee, with their aides, all made up for the occasion and I was no longer surprised at the impression made in the country by this play.

FALSIFYING HISTORY.

It was a remarkable admixture of the true and the false, history and fiction, representation and misrepresentation and I felt that the machinations of the arch enemy, the Devil, as manifested in the author of this remarkable production could only be counteracted by diplomatic efforts on the part of the colored people and the white people, who sympathized with them in their efforts to be placed in their true light before the millions of white people in this country.

I could not understand though, how the Grand Army men and the sons of the Union veterans could permit the truths of history to be so ingeniously falsified by this photo-play, which was now patrolling the North.

SOUTHERNERS WOULD UNDERSTAND.

It could do little harm in the South for white men, colored men, the old family servants, and their off-spring were there to counteract its effect and to minimize its influence. The representation of the colored Lieutenant Governor making love to the daughter of the Northern statesman, her rebuke of him in his efforts to marry her and of the struggle which followed when he attempted to force her into wedlock with him was too ridiculously absurd to be reproduced upon canvas.

SENATOR SUMNER MALIGNED.

The representation of Senator Charles Sumner meeting a colored octoroon, the mistress of a Northern statesman and of her demanding of him that he kiss her hand was another ridiculous production, especially when it was shown that he did so. But I had enough of the "Birth of a Nation.

I found that it was about 5 P. M. when I passed down the steps to the street below and I caught a street-car for the ferry, where I soon boarded a ferry-boat and reached the residence again of Mr. and Mrs. T. S. Johnson. I had succeeded in getting a reservation on the palatial train, known as "The Lark."

ON TO LOS ANGELES.

I was to leave at about 8 o'clock and it was with some consternation that I learned from Mr. Johnson that I would have to return to San Francisco and board the train there for Los Angeles. I ate supper hurriedly, bid Mrs. Johnson good-bye and a few moments later, in company with her husband was on my way again to "Frisco," where after just a little while I boarded the second section of the train leaving about ten minutes after the schedule time. That night, I slept without rocking and the next morning awoke to find that the train was more than an hour late and was still losing time.

JOHN MITCHELL, JR.

'BIRTH OF NATION' WRIT PERMANENT

Atlantic City Commissioners Cannot Close Film Show, Chancellor Rules

RIDDLE IS ACCUSED OF PLAYING POLITICS

Affidavits Say He Tried to Influence Colored Voters—Court Declines to Be Censor

Special Telegram to Public Ledger

TRENTON, Aug. 21.—Allegations to the effect that for political reasons officials of Atlantic City had ordered the closing of the moving-picture film "The Birth of a Nation" at the New Nixon Theatre were argued before Chancellor Walker today by Emerson L. Richards, counsel for the Esplanade Amusement Company and the Epoch Producing Corporation, owners, respectively, of the theatre and the picture.

At the conclusion of the hearing the Chancellor made permanent the injunction restraining the Atlatic City Commission from interfering with the production. The temporary injunction was granted by the Chancellor, Saturday, August 14.

Several affidavits were read to the Court by Richards from prominent business men and colored ministers of the resort which commented the picture and argued that its production was a moral lesson. The men also thought it would not create disorder or disturbance nor tend to engender race prejudice. These affidavits were made by William F. Hanstein, president of the Hotelmen's Association, and one of the owners of the Royal Palace Hotel; the Rev. William E. Allen, pastor of the Church of the Good Shepherd, and the Rev. Robert A. Lockwood, a lecturer of Atlantic City.

Hanstein charged that the action of the City Commissioners in ordering the closing of the show was promoted by Mayor Riddle for the purpose of securing the support of the colored voters. The agitation on the part of the Commissioners was forced, he added, and was an object lesson of what might be done to colored persons at the hands of politicians. He said the picture should not be stopped for political reasons.

Hanstein said that the picture did not create any disorder or disturbance, and that he had several hundred colored persons in his employ who had witnessed the play, and from their attitude it did not cause racial prejudice.

Attorney Richards informed the court that Harry Brown, manager of the New Nixon Theatre, was in court, and if it cared to hear his testimony was ready to take the stand. At the time counsel made the suggestion the Court intimated that it was no necessary. It was also stated to the Court that the Commissioners of Atlantic City had issued a license to the theatre while the picture was in course of production, and that no move was made at that time to restrain the theatre from showing the play.

Theodore W. Schimpf, who appeared for the Atlantic City Commissioners, read a joint affidavit made by Mayor Riddle and William H. Bartlett, Director of Public Safety. After citing the various scenes in the picture the affidavit anticipated that the production of teh picture would likely cause a riot or disturbance and therefore create a public nuisance. Here Schimpf was interrupted by the Chancellor, who asked if there was any actual disorder alleged in the affidavits of the two Commissioners, to which counsel replied in the negative.

Court Declined to Be Censor

When he had finished reading the affidavit, Chancellor Walker said that inasmuch as it was admitted by counsel for the commissioners that there was no disorder of any kind, it had been proved by the other side that no disturbance of any kind had taken place. Chancellor Walker characterized the attitude of the commissioners coming into court in support of its action as rather strange in anticipating what might happen as a result of the production of the picture play. He asked the attorney if his clients were not asking him to act as censor rather than in the capacity of a Judge.

"The proof of the pudding is the eating thereof," said the Chancellor. "You hav not shown me that the sense of propriety of the community has been outraged, but that it might naturally arise. It may be that the scenes are reprehensive, but I don't think I ought to censor the play, and I should not restrain the show as a matter of law. The dire calamities which you anticipate have not occurred, and I am forced to make the injunction permanent."

The action of the commission, Schimpf continued, was the outcome of a protest filed with the officials by certain representative colored clergymen protesting against the picture.

Mr. Dixon Not Responsible For "Birth of a Nation"

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

Mr. Thomas Dixon has informed us that he made no such statement to Mr. Rolfe Cobleigh as that "The Birth of a Nation" was being put forth to bring about the extermination of the negro race in this country. We cannot conceive of Mr. Dixon's uttering such a silly statement, and we prefer to credit his word in this matter rather than that of Mr. Cobleigh.

But at the same time—whether Mr. Dixon (as he says) did not make the statement or whether (as Mr. Cobleigh says) he did make it—we wish to point out the unquestionable fact that Mr. Thomas Dixon has nothing to do with the production of "The Birth of a Nation" in Boston or in any other part of the world. We must not be held responsible for what Mr. Dixon says or anyone else says, outside our own organization. It would be as reasonable to hold us responsible for the opinions of Tillman or Vardaman or Cecil Chesterton or other radicals on race questions.

Mr. David W. Griffith and his associates selected the material used in "The Birth of a Nation" because it possessed drama and the possibility of spectacular features connected with the Civil War history, and for no other reason. All the talk of "propaganda" in connection with the play is moonshine. We came to Boston early in order to fill Tremont Theatre "time" that Messrs. Klaw & Erlanger had requested us to fill, and not from any ulterior purpose whatever. Our claim that "The Birth of a Nation" must be judged as an art work, independent of the Dixon or anti-Dixon theories and ideas, is borne out by the fact that but 40 per cent. of the filmed scenes derive from "The Clansman" and 60 per cent. derive from Mr. Griffith solely and individually.

It seems decidedly unfortunate that the opponents of Mr. Griffith's work have not taken the same view of it as the great majority of the Boston people, namely, that it was produced for the sole purpose of entertainment, just as all great plays, in part based on history, have been. Let our opponents present a scenario possessing the "punch" and tremendous heart-interest of "The Birth of a Nation," and Mr. Griffith will be equally willing to put forth their version of this particular phase of history.

J. J. M'CARTHY,
General Manager "Birth of a Nation" Company.

Says Ku Klux Klan Protected Defenseless

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

The picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," has been attacked from almost every point of view imaginable, and with little reason for justice. It has been declared obscene, and yet even before the "Gus" feature was eliminated, there was no obscenity in it save such as might be read into it out of the imagination of the observer.

It has been condemned as being aimed against a single class of our citizens, the colored people, and yet it contains no reflection against any class of colored men save the barn burners, criminals and lawless militia that infested the South during the Reconstruction period. It has been opposed on the ground that it is a propaganda in favor of the deportation of the colored race from this country to Africa and elsewhere.

There is not a suggestion in the play of any such impossible idea.

Now as to the historical bases of some of the scenes that have evoked criticism.

First, it is a well known fact that the worst disorders in the South during the years succeeding the war did not begin until after the passage of the military Reconstruction bill in March, 1867.

Second, we know that the able but vindictive representative Thaddeus Stevens was the author of this bill, a measure that destroyed the civil government that had been set up in the Southern States after the war and substituted therefor five military dictatorships, a measure stigmatized by Prof. Burgess of Columbia University as "the most brutal proposition ever introduced into the Congres of the United States."

Third, we know that under this bill practically the entire white population was disfranchised and the whole colored population enfranchised, the latter only to fall almost immediately under the sway of the Northern "carpetbagger" and Southern "scalawag," who were the leaders in the carnival of crime and mismanagement that followed.

Were colored militia employed to uphold the carpetbaggers' power as shown in the play? L. T. Levin, himself a Southern radical, says that in South Carolina "the entire militia as organized and armed was composed of colored men, with the exception of a few white officers. During the year 1870 there was organized 14 full regiments of nearly 1000 men to each regiment." Chief Constable J. B. Hubbard, another radical, declared "The militia was organized and armed for political purposes." His deputy, J. W. Anderson, in a letter to Mr. Hubbard, dated June 25, 1870, said: "We can carry this county if we can get constables enough by encouraging the militia and frightening the poor white men."

Were the Legislatures of South Carolina and other Southern States in the hands of the newly enfranchised blacks, and did a carnival of misgovernment ensue? In the South Carolina Legislature of 1868 to 1872 there were 155 members, 57 white and 98 colored. Only 22 of the entire body could read and write. Several could only write their names. Forty-one signed by an x mark. The total taxes paid by the 98 colored members was $143. The total tax paid by the 57 white men was $491. Sixty-seven colored members and 24 white members paid no tax at all. None of the higher State officials, save the lieutenant governor, paid any taxes. And yet this Legislature levied taxes of over $2,000,000 per year and in four years increased the bonded debt of the State by nearly $20,000,000. The total cost of public printing alone which in 78 years prior to 1868 had amounted to only $609,000, in the suceeding four years of carpet bag government aggregated $1,160,465.

In one session $350,000 was spent for "supplies, sundries and incidentals," $125,000 of it being spent for the maintenance of a free restaurant, lunch counter, and bar at which members and their friends wined and dined at public expense. Whole volumes have been written on this orgy of misrule.

It was these political conditions and the carnival of social crimes and excesses which accompanied them that gave rise to the Ku Klux Klan. This league was organized "to protect the weak, the innocent, and the defenseless, from the wrongs and outrages of the lawless," "to protect and defend the constitution of the United States, and all laws passed in conformity thereto," and "to protect the people from unlawful seizure, and from trial except by their peers in conformity with the laws of the land!" The most unprejudiced and dispassionate historians agree that the first results of the movement were good, while admitting that the later results were both good and bad. "The early work of the secret orders," says Professor Fleming of West Virginia University, "quieted the negroes, made life and property safer, gave protection to woman, forced the Radical leaders to be more moderate, made the negroes work better, drove the worst of the Radical leaders from the country and started the whites on the way to regain political supremacy."

All this forms an epoch in our history, an epoch of which too little is known here in the North and of which our people have a right to know, whether it be presented to them in books, or in a wonderfully vivid picture play like "The Birth of a Nation.'

FRED W. CROSS.
Representative, First Worcester District, May 7th, 1915.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Its Production Should Be Stopped, if That Can Be Legally Done

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—I cordially approve the views expressed by my highly valued friend, Dr. W. W. Keen, in the PUBLIC LEDGER of a recent date, concerning the photo play now being shown in our city, entitled "The Birth of a Nation."

Like Doctor Keen, I went to see the representation, and I was interested in the first half, especially the showing of the death of Lincoln. With the second half, however, dealing with the reconstruction period, I was not only disappointed, but disgusted. The facts of history are not only ignored in the representation, but in many cases falsified, making heroes out of murderers and outlaws, as stated in a recent article by Girard in the PUBLIC LEDGER.

I well remember the terrible reconstruction period, when the Ku-Klux Klan, overriding all law and order through the South, committed outrages which have stamped the name with horror in the minds of all the older generation.

It is much to be deplored that the younger people of the day at this late date—when the bitter feeling engendered during the time referred to has been supposed to have passed away—should now be influenced to believe that such murderers and outlaws were conservators of law and order, as the photo play referred to falsely indicates. That there were outrages committed on both sides during the terrible reconstruction period referred to cannot be denied, but that our own race were chiefly responsible is also a generally acknowledged fact which cannot be contradicted at this late day; and all unworthy attempts to do so, as shown in the play referred to, should be denied by all fair-minded people.

I think the representation referred to should be prevented from continuance, if it can be legally done, and I trust Mayor Blankenburg will do whatever can properly be done in the case.

I rejoice in the publication of such articles as Doctor Keen's, and also in the accurate and temperate statement of Girard in the PUBLIC LEDGER article above referred to.

ISAAC H. CLOTHIER.
Philadelphia, October 12, 1915.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

EGG NEGRO SCENES IN LIBERTY FILM PLAY

Police Quell Disturbers at "Birth of a Nation," and Arrest Indignant Southerner.

A mixed crowd of white men and negroes who had obtained seats in the front row of the gallery started a demonstration against the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Liberty Theatre at 10.30 o'clock last night.

Policemen, ushers and private detectives who had been stationed at convenient intervals in anticipation of a demonstration swarmed down upon the noise makers and seized two of the leaders. As they did so two eggs splattered over the screen, blotting out portions of a picture showing a white Southern girl in the act of leaping off a cliff to escape from a negro pursuer.

A white man, who gave the name of Howard Schaeffle, was hurried from the theatre after private detectives had asserted it was he who threw the eggs. He cried out, "Rotten, rotten" as the detectives pushed him down the stairs toward the street. He was taken to the West Thirty-seventh Street station on a charge of disorderly conduct.

A negro who walked with a slight limp followed the white man out with the help of detectives. He protested loudly that "that play's a libel on a race. It's got to be stopped." The other negroes and white men, who seemed to have come in a group, became frightened at the quick interference by the police and private detectives.

"Let's get out of here," one shouted. "I think we'll be in for trouble if we stay." Seven negroes did as he suggested.

As the theatre was in semi-darkness and the eggs that struck the screen made no noise, only a few of those in the audience became aware of the extent of the disturbance. They heard the outcries in the gallery, but showed no disposition to leave their seats.

A negro arose some minutes after the main party had left.

"On the anniversary of Lincoln's assassination," he shouted, "it is inappropriate to present a play that libels 10,000,000 loyal American negroes. I think President Lincoln wouldn't like this play." The negro, who said his name was Cleveland G. Allen and that he was the head of a colored news agency, was ushered to the street.

At the West Thirty-seventh Street Station Schaeffle was searched and a paper bag containing three eggs was found in his overcoat pocket.

"I was taking the eggs home for breakfast," he said, "and I stopped in to see this play. I am a Southerner and a libertarian, and I believe in the education and the uplifting of the negro. It made my blood boil to see the play and I threw the eggs at the screen. The play will have to be removed from the boards."

Schaeffle said he was born in Maryland. A negro lawyer, escorted by a delegation of negroes who had not been in the theatre, appeared at the station to take charge of Schaeffle's case.

The next scene after the one to which the negroes objected so violently showed Northern carpetbaggers beating negro slaves who were loyal to their Southern white friends and were trying to protect the Southern whites from being pillaged by the carpetbaggers.

The management of the theatre pointed out this scene as a refutation of the charge that the play was meant to libel the negroes, or show them in an especially bad light. The management insisted that most of the applause during the progress of the play was for scenes showing negroes performing heroic acts.

Boston Daily

URGES HOUSE TO AMEND RACE FILM CENSORSHIP BILL

A vigorous address in behalf of his amendment to make the bill more acceptable to opponents of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," was made in the House this afternoon by Representative Rowley of Brookline, when the House took up the so-called compromise bill for a three-headed censorship in Boston.

The bill was advanced to a third reading by the House last Thursday, and came up this afternoon on the question of passing it to be engrossed It vests unlimited powers of censorship in the mayor, police commissioner and chief justice of the municipal court, but requires that their decisions must be unonimous. Representative Rowley's amendment provides that any two of these three may make a decision. In support of his amendment Mr. Rowley said:

"The author of the book on which this play is based is one of the most notorious haters of the colored race the South has ever produced. He frankly admits he has no use for the colored race and would drive it from the country. In this play, by subtle and insidious perversions in the history of the reconstruction period, he would keep aliv and foster this race prejudice on the part of one group of American citizens against another. The colored man is represented as a sensuous animal, lusting after the virtue of the white women and in his new freedom arrogant and defiant of law and order.

"Whatever may have been the original purpose of the Ku Klux Klan, does not every student of history know that very shortly after their organization they became gangs of rapists and murderers, perpetrating crimes that in their heinousness stagger the imagination. And yet in this play they are represented as chivalrous knights of a holy order with the cross of Christ as their standard, whose sole purpose was to protect the virtue of southern white women. Further reference to the details of the play are unnecessary. Is it not apparent to every thinking man and woman that it is an insult and an affront to our colored brothers and sisters, for they are our brothers and sisters, American citizens as much as we are American citizens and equally with us entitled to respect and protection.

"The bill reported by the committee seems to me too rigid in its requirement of the unanimous consent of the three officials in whose hands is placed the power to revoke licenses. Are not majorities with rare ecxeptions always controlling on commissions and other boards? In our various state commissions, in the supreme court, in the Governor's council, in our city councils, in our boards of selectmen and in our own committees, is not the principle of majority control universally found? What unusual or extraordinary circumstances have been shown here that should cause us to depart from this well known principle of government?

"The unanimous consent of the commissioners makes no allowance for the pressure and influence that may at times be exerted on one of their number whose political aspirations are quite likely to warp his judgment."

MONSON TO SEE "THE NIGGER"

Sons of Veterans Feel They Are Doing Right in Presenting Much Discussed Photo Play

From Our Special Correspondent.

MONSON, Saturday, August 7

The A. A. Gage camp, Sons of Veterans, at the meeting Tuesday will hear the report of the entertainment committee. The committee has plans for their next entertainment to present with other attractions the motion picture play, "The Nigger." The committee has planned to give the entertainment in the Roderick theater Monday evening, the 23d, and already have some of their advertising posted. When it was announced that "The Nigger" was to be shown in Monson, it was thought that there would be some opposition, as it had been prohibited in many towns and cities in the states including the city of Springfield.

In several of the places where this play was prohibited under the title of "The Nigger" it has been shown under the name of "The New Governor." The pictures were identically the same, but were allowed to be shown when the objectional title was eliminated. The officials of the local camp of Sons of Veterans who have the arrangements in charge, state that the casting of any slur on the colored race was far from their minds when they arranged to allow the townspeople an opportunity to see these very much talked about reels of pictures. The committee states that they believe the reason why their former picture entertainments have been so well patronized by the public is because they have engaged the newest, and most talked about attractions.

The commander of the camp stated that the camp's members were well known generally, and he did not believe that the Monson people, at least, would think that they had anything but the best of motives in being the means of having shown in Monson a play that had been so strongly protested against in other places. When asked if he did not think that it appeared somewhat strange to have a patriotic organization of the town not only sanction, but engage to be shown in Monson, a series of pictures so objectionable to the colored race that they were prohibited in many places, he said that it might appear so, but no offense was intended, and he questioned if there would be any objections. He admitted that he had seen the play in a nearby city, but under the name of "The New Governor." He said that it was only after he had observed the good features of the play that he advised the entertainment committee that it was an attraction that they should put on, thereby allowing the Monson people a chance to see the much talked about play, and also add materially to the camp's treasury. He said the play was a very strong one, but he did not think that there was any of the colored people in Monson who would enter a protest. He realized that the A. A. Gage camp had always possessed a good name, and he, as well as his brother members, would be very much grieved had they done anything to cause even the colored people to raise objections to their actions or methods.

Mr Noyes stated that it has been three weeks since it was first announced that the Sons of Veterans of Monson were to put on "The Nigger," and that not one protest had been received. He said that a series of very strong objections might be the means of having the matter brought for consideration before the entire camp, but unless this very unlikely condition arises the entertainment, "The Nigger," with comedy acts, will be put on as advertised.

Several of the colored people of the town have been interviewed relative to this entertainment. They did not know that there was going to be a play presented in Monson that their race members had strongly objected to in other places. The reason for the objections was shown to them, including the fact that the title was "The Nigger." None of the people seen were of the opinion that the title, or any other part of the play, was objectionable enough to cause them to enter any protest. One old fellow said that he had always been called a nigger, and had never found any fault when so addressed. He said he had tried to live a decent, honorable life and would rather be known as a good nigger than a bad white man. There is little liability of anything occurring that will prevent the local camp of Sons of Veterans from putting on in the Roderick theater the 23d the much talked of reels of pictures, "The Nigger."

Boston Journal

Mr. Trotter Replies to Editorial in Journal

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

While every editorial in any reputable Boston newspaper which upholds the photo-play "Birth of a Nation" sinks like the point of a digger into the heart of the colored American who sees in the continuance of the production the "Assassination of a race," his own race, permit me to say that the tone and spirit of your editorial of today is not disagreeable or rasping. As you call for fairness and truth, let me point out some possible errors. You say a "Minority of the Boston colored people" are fighting this photo-play. It is a fact that while two colored persons have been published as favoring the play and they have both publicly denied it, that all former factional lines are obliterated in opposing the play, leaders of the former feuds working side by side, that never before did enough people attend a protest meeting in Faneuil Hall to provide an outdoor overflow meeting, never before did enough colored people attend a protest meeting at any colored church to provide two overflow meetings as at the African Zion Church Sunday night; never before did even one-fourth as many colored people go to the State House to protest as on Patriots' day.

You ask "What should we think of a Southern city that would forbid 'Uncle Tom's Cabin?'" The white people of Atlanta, Ga., did forbid it. It was not permitted until the name was changed and all features representing cruelty to slaves eliminated, the opposition, headed by the Daughters of the Confederacy, stating: "Nobody has any right to come here and stir up sectional prejudice by offering such a play. The play recalls all the things we have been trying to forget."

If the South stops "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which helped free a race, written by the noble, responsible Harriet Beecher Stowe, why should Boston not stop "The Birth of a Nation," whose author's admitted design is to cause the deportation of this race from its native land? Finally you say that if the newly enfranchised colored people had not made some bad mistakes "they would have been more than human." We will admit they made some bad mistakes, but not that of preying upon defenseless white women. "There's the rub," and the lie and the excitation of race prejudice.

You counter upon Mr. McCall, quoting his book against Reconstruction. In all his extravagant censure of that epoch, nowhere is there any hint at colored men preying upon, assaulting or forcibly marrying white women. None of the historians of that day who condemned Reconstruction charged the freedmen with crimes against white women. The "Birth of a Nation" pictures the all-absorbing passion of the colored man when granted citizenship as desire for white women. This is made a characteristic race trait by the half-decimated "Gus" scene, the commission of rape is the unescapable inference. Nothing stirs up racial hatred among white men and women so much as a representation of black men forcing white women into marriage and assaulting white girls. Remember, "Birth of a Nation" claims to be not a fiction, but fact. Hence the street talk of a lynching on Boston Common.

No play should be permitted which represents the men of one race as assaulters of the women of the other races in a country where all must live

together. As you have given two columns to the author of "The Clansman," I believe you will give to me, your fellow-townsman and constant reader of your paper, whom you criticized, the justice of the publication of an answer to your editorial.

WM. MONROE TROTTER.
49 Cornhill, Boston, Mass.
April 28, 1915.

MAY 2 1915

"BIRTH OF A NATION" BILL ADVANCED

STORMY HOUSE DEBATE AND 94 TO 31 VOTE

Anti-Liquor Bill Goes to Governor, Who Fails to Reveal Intention

The so-called "Birth of a Nation" bill, providing for a board of censors consisting of the Mayor of Boston, the Police Commissioner and the Chief Justice of the Municipal Court to pass on theatrical exhibitions, was advanced to a third reading in the House yesterday after a stormy debate by a vote of 94 to 31.

The opponents of the bill based their argument on the claim that this bill was founded entirely on the protest of the negroes against this certain film play. The members of the Committee on Judiciary which brought in the bill declared that this was not the case.

Rep. Kennard, chairman of the committee, explained the committee found that the law is different in Boston than it is in any other place in the State.

In other places, the local authorities may stop a production for any reason whatever, but in Boston a production may be stopped only in the event that the local authorities find it obscene or immoral. The bill strikes out this latter requirement, and adds the Chief Justice of the Municipal Court to the censorship.

Rep. Dowse of Sherborn declared the picture an insidious attack upon the North. "If my nation was born when the Ku Klux Klan was organized, then I am willing to sell my birthright for a mess of pottage."

Rep. Donovan of Boston opposed the bill, and criticised the negroes for what he said was an attempt to start a riot in front of the theatre the night the arrests were made. He said 80,000 people have seen the picture, and not one has been incited to crime. He said the Jew, the Irish and the Italian have been ridiculed for years on the public stage, but it is left for the negro to register the first complaint officially.

Rep. Washburn of Worcester urged that the bill be not treated as one designed solely to remedy a possible wrong to the colored race, as it gives to properly and fairly constituted authorities power to prevent any which ought to be prevented.

The House then concurred with the Senate in suspending the rules to permit the entrance of a bill, on petition of Senator Hays, allowing the city of Boston to pay the balance of the salary of the late Councilman Woods to his widow.

The bill for the reorganization of the Boston & Maine road was ordered to a third reading without debate or division on the understanding that debate will be had on the next stage, passing to be engrossed.

In the Senate, the bill prohibiting the transportation of liquors from a license town to a no-license town by a dealer in his own vehicles caused a slight flurry.

Senator Hobbs asked unanimous consent to have the bill, then in the hands of the Clerk, reconsidered so that an amendment agreed to by the anti-saloon forces might be added. The amendment in effect provided that a dealer breaking the law should not have his license annulled until the second offence.

Senator McLane, the original objector to the bill, again objected, so there was nothing for Hobbs to do but move to return the bill as it was enacted to the Governor. Last night the Governor would make no statement except to say that he had five days to act.

The bill for the completion of the west wing of the State House with an appropriation of $600,000 was passed by the Senate.

The Ellis amendment to the "Innholders" bill, providing that sleeping rooms only in hotels should come within the provisions of the act was adopted and sent to the House without debate.

Consideration of the apportionment of the costs of the Wellington bridge reconstruction bill was laid over to next session.

The Boston cellar and basement occupancy bill was passed to be engrossed without debate.

The resolve for raising the salary of the justice of the Roxbury court to $5000 was reported ought to pass by the Ways and Means Committee, amended, however, to $4500. The same Committee also reported ought to pass on the resolve for the expenditure of $20,000 for the investigation of the conservation of the water resources of the State, the money to be spent in 1915, 1916 and 1917, not more than $10,000 in any one year.

This is upon recommendation of the special commission appointed for the study of this work.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Its Coming Appearance in Chicopee —The Question of Salary Raises in the City Departments

From Our Special Correspondent.

CHICOPEE, Saturday, October 9

"The Birth of a Nation," the last word in moving pictures, bids fair to appear in Chicopee after a most inhospitable experience a little further down the river. Denied a home in Springfield the picture bit the trail to West Springfield, where it seemed to have reached its Alabama. There, too, it was pursued and forced to take up its lonely pilgrimage again. Now it has raised its head in Chicopee, and it seems as if its persistency would be rewarded.

The usual cry has been raised, however, and the "moral" element of the community is making a strong protest against the production of the film. Of course, this was to be expected. Doubtless, there are many persons who have a sincere belief that this picture would have all the pernicious and harmful results claimed for it. Yet those same people will sit through a production of "The Merchant of Venice," and will leave the theater without any feeling of hatred for the Jews. This type of opposition, however, is honest. On the other hand, there are those who oppose the film merely because it was not allowed in Springfield or West Springfield. They even acknowledge that this is the strongest objection to the presentation of the picture. They speak of Chicopee's moral tone, of the disgrace that the picture would bring on the city and many other dire results.

One noticeable feature of the objections to the picture is that they smell of the lamp. They seem to have been concocted by the side of a fire, or derived from a book. The picture, they say, "glorifies the Ku-Klux clan, misrepresents history and stirs up racial hatred." Such objections surely speak very ill for the minds of the theater-going public. The influence of a play depends on the reaction which it produces on the audience's mind. Is it possible that a sane, normal crowd cannot see this picture without realizing that it is the story of 50 years ago? Will not the present position of the Negro more than counteract any influence of the film? It is absurd to claim that this is not so. To return to the comparison with the presentation of Shakespeare's plays, does the fact that the Jews were despised in former years serve to kindle hatred now? It is a scathing indictment of the human mind if this is true. It almost convinces one of the truth of the statement that "we read history not with our eyes but with our prejudices."

The picture which is to be presented in Chicopee is the one now showing in Boston. Those who have seen this say that there is nothing wrong or immoral about it. In fact, the conduct of the carpet-baggers from the North is almost as disgusting and disgraceful as that credited to the Negro. Must we, then, blind our eyes to all the dark spots of history because of our oversensitive natures? Must we refuse to glean the lessons we can from the mistakes of the past?

This picture shows some of the excesses of the Negro after the grant of freedom to him. Was it to be expected that a race long oppressed by servitude should in one night show itself capable of control and self-government? Were not the acts of the Negroes perfectly natural? They would have been those of the whites, if it had happened that the circumstances were reversed. To view this picture with an open and fair mind, it is only necessary to use a little common sense. It is not a vital question, one reaching deep down to the very roots of national feeling, as many would have it appear. It is a mere matter of being sensible and of realizing that it all depends on ourselves. It's not the picture—it's ourselves

The salary question is perplexing the aldermen just at present, and with good reason. To make justifiable increases, to refuse those not founded on reason, and, at the same time, to please all constituents—surely this is a task for a Hercules. As long as the aldermen accomplish the first two-thirds of the task, the last part ought to be one of entire indifference to them. In the army of those who have petitioned for raises, there are at least three departments of the city's workers who realy deserve the increase. These are the fire, police and street departments. Chicopee has grown to such an extent that the work of these departments has become that of a much larger population. The fire department must respond to calls from a territory much larger than that of Holyoke. They may not answer every call, but they must be ready to protect the citizens of Willimansett, the Falls and the Center. They must be ready for action every hour in the day, every day in the week and every week in the year. Even at mealtime they are at the beck and call of any idler who is attracted by the round, pretty knob on the fire alarm box. Furthermore, the firemen must pay a very high premium for their insurance policies because of the work they are required to do.

This last statement is also applicable to the police force. Their work is of the sort that leads to high premiums in the insurance world. Like the firemen, the policemen enjoy very little of real home life. When at work they are separated from the home. When at home, they must sleep to prepare for the next day's work. In the case of the police force, there ought to be, there must be, a realization of the fact that it is one of the most unpleasant forms of earning a living. The good feel that there is no necessity for him, and the wicked believe him to be a nuisance. Therefore, the howl whenever he petitions for a raise.

The street department is experiencing the most strenuous year of its existence—if such a scattered and omnipresent department may be said to have an existence. More sidewalks are being laid, more streets are being paved and more sewers are being built than ever before. It seems that the head of this department, too, ought to be paid more money for the additional work that all this activity has caused. Chicopee has grown and become a flourishing city in the past year. The increase in taxes alone will bear much of the additional expense which will be brought about by the increased salaries. As the figures compiled show that Chicopee is far behind other cities of smaller population in regard to these salaries, it seems right and fair that some steps should be taken to better conditions. The city ought not to try to escape its just dues, and Chicopee may well incur the charge from its present scale of salaries.

PUBLIC PROTEST AGAINST "THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

St. Louis Federation of Colored Women's Clubs and Mothers' Congress Hold Meeting at Central Baptist Church August 30

To the Fair-Minded Public:

Whereas, there is being shown a photo-play entitled "The Birth of a Nation," said play having been booked to run five weeks, beginning August 29, and

Whereas, we believe the production of the play in the city of St. Louis will be detrimental to peace and harmony between the white and negro races, and,

Whereas, the play deals with times and scenes that belong to the happily forgotten past, and portrays the negro in a biased and unfair light, therefore be it

Resolved, That we do earnestly add our protest to that of many other good citizens against the production of the play, and hereby call upon the proper authorities to prevent the same.

CLEMMER FILM STIRS BLACKS

Indignation Meeting Planned for August 15 at Church.

F. A. Stokes, a leader of the colored delegation which visited the city council recently to urge censoring of "The Birth of a Nation," now running at the Clemmer, announced yesterday that an indignation meeting to protest against plays that incur race hatred will be held Sunday night, August 15, at the Bethel A. M. E. church.

"Whites and colored people will be invited to this meeting, and we will ask that some legislation be enacted by the city to prevent future efforts to commercialize race prejudices and stir up race hatred," he said.

"We realize that in the case which we recently took before the council arrangements had previously been made to give that play. But we will ask that the repetition of performances that do an injustice to any one section of people, white or black, be prohibited."

April 1916

BIRTH OF A NATION' CASE IS POSTPONED

The hearing on the summons served on Harry Aitken and D. W. Griffith, responsible for the film version of Thomas Dixon's book "The Clansman," in the form of "The Birth of a Nation," was adjourned one week by Magistrate McQuade, when the case came up to-day in Jefferson Market Court.

The adjournment was taken at the request of a representative of James W. Osborne, who appeared in behalf of the complainant, the National Association for the Promotion of Colored People. He said that following the protest to Mayor Mitchel, it was understood the objectionable scenes would be eliminated. If this is done the complaint will be withdrawn, the lawyer said

DIXON PHOTOPLAY BARRED FROM MEMPHIS

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

MEMPHIS, TENN., Nov. 9.—"The Birth of a Nation" will not be allowed to come to Memphis, the local moving picture censor board having barred it. John M. Dean, a member of the board, saw the play in San Francisco and decided then to use his influence against it should an attempt be made to show it in Memphis.

The board of censors give two reasons for their actions: 1, that the picture stirs race prejudice; 2, that it will have a bad moral effect on the community.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

The Constructive Criticism of Motion Pictures

By ORRIN G. COCKS
Advisory Secretary of The National Board of Censorship.

Shall offensive motion pictures be destroyed or never made? Is it possible to use the ounce of prevention rather than the pound of cure? Can a disinterested group, representing public opinion, stop the circulation of harmful pictures or must the law be invoked? Is a small State Board, politically appointed, the body to decide finally on the morals of motion pictures for 5,000,000 people? These are questions which demand an answer.

The audiences in the picture houses think little about them. A wonderful amount of human ingenuity, however, has been used to create the illusion. There are many steps in this preliminary process which may be effected by wholesome criticism. From the standpoint of the motion picture enthusiast, any improvement in these preliminary processes is an unknown but potent blessing.

It is the aim of the National Board of Censorship to represent public opinion during the formative period of the motion picture. Would you like to go behind the scenes and see how some plays die before they see the light of day? Perhaps the picture will interest as well some social workers who are puzzling over methods of prevention.

The National Board is composed of about 140 volunteers with absolutely no financial interest in the motion picture business. All the members are human and believe that more can be accomplished by a touch of sympathetic understanding than by recourse to the law. With this fundamental idea in mind, they have worked for 6 years to protect the public and to elevate what is now the fifth largest industry in the United States. After arguments have failed, when appeal to the authorities becomes necessary, it has most effective methods of obtaining results in most of the cities of the country.

As the unending, ever-increasing number of film subjects have been presented to the Board, it has established ethical principles on a basis both of facts and public opinion. These have been stated concretely until a unique pamphlet called The Standards of Judgment has been produced. This has been placed in the hands of the makers of motion pictures and becomes a guide to them when they seek to put ideas on films. All who run may read.

But a well worded book is not sufficient. Other methods as well are used. The Board is constantly meeting the manufacturers face to face. They discuss with them the effects of certain film situations, and, through fair argument, convince them of the danger of handling them. Then, too, the representatives of the makers are always invited to the meetings of the committees when pictures are reviewed. They there hear the discussion of the skilled members, state their views and carry back to their studios and directors the opinions of the committee. In addition to such discussion, letters are writen to the manufacturers which put in concise form the conclusions reached.

But let us go a step further. You may not realize that an elaborate stage copy or scenario is prepared for use by studio directors and motion picture actors. The National Board has often been consulted, both about these scenarios and the ideas around which the stories are built. It is entirely possible to prevent the construction of such plays in film form, before money is invested or skilled ability is applied in the making of plays.

When once it is decided to construct a film story and the scenery and actors are selected, the investment of large sums of money begins. The actors and camera men are taken to selected parts of the country where the proper atmosphere or background is present. Sometimes five or six hundred separate scenes are taken both outdoors and in the studios. In each of these the capable director knows just the effect he wishes to produce. The film is then assembled and linked up into a smooth-running story with title and numerous sub-titles. During all these steps, the judgments of The National Board are considered. The final production is one sample copy from which from 15 to 100 prints are made. It immediately becomes clear that the constructive criticism of The National Board is of undoubted value. During construction, builders of houses pay large prices to architects to follow the work of builders. It is expensive and irritating to destroy either a complete building or a complete film.

The National Board is primarily the representative of the public in matters of morals. When all is said and done, it is much more interested in guarding the welfare of young people than in saving money for manufacturers, who enter the business knowing the element of risk. It desires also to protect Society from the ignorant, the degenerate and the depraved who may do harm. It is concerned with the wholesomeness of this modern instrument for the amusement and instruction of the people. How, then, is it able to speak with authority to these business men about the wishes of the American public?

Some idea of the variety of rulings which have been codified for the protection of the public can be gathered from the following list. This organization sends advices on definite themes to the manufacturers and prevents the production of pictures which do not meet with public approval. A partial list includes: The prolonged success of criminals; close and detailed views of crime; deliberate arson for revenge; the senseless use of weapons; near and prolonged views of murder; the actual use of poison and stupefying drugs; contempt for officers of the law; the brutal handling of women and children; cruelty to animals; the unnatural actions of lunatics; distressing views of the insane and feebleminded; abandoned drinking and under-world scenes. The insincere and suggestive portrayal of the Social Evil; scenes in houses of prostitution and solicitation; the details of immoral sex relations; overpassionate love scenes; stimulating close dancing; unnecessary bedroom scenes in negligee; excessively low-cut gowns; undue or suggestive display of the person; comedy which is vulgarly indecent; humor which offends against morals; flirtations which are indecent; prejudging famous cases pending in the courts; the exploitation of notorious characters; suggestive pictures of the use of habit-forming drugs; scenes which are sacrilegious or offensive to religious convictions; the triumph of evil.

To speak with authority, The National Board is in constant correspondence with skilled representatives, public officials, social workers and educators throughout the country. Although located in New York, this organization does not accept as a basis of criticism the moral standards of the New York stage nor of its complicated liberal and abnormal life. It knows that, on moral questions, the judgment of persons in the smaller cities and towns is much more accurate. The Board, therefore, gathers sentiment from those who have clear-cut opinions on definite moral questions. Strange as it may seem, some of the most valuable come directly or indirectly from the exhibitors of pictures in different cities, who, in turn, are quick to learn the views of their audiences.

The board recognizes that it must continually have the assistance of experts in deciding on technical or difficult questions. It is fortunate in being able to call upon groups of such highly trained workers in the metropolitan city of New York. These skilled individuals have rendered great assistance in deciding about the influence of complex themes such as the use of drugs, white slavery and religious questions.

There is a universal impression in the United States that young people between the ages of 12 and 20 are unconsciously open to moral impressions. This can be stated as a truism. It is, however, difficult to define accurately and clearly the individual themes which are harmful. The National Board has sought earnestly to obtain convictions based on knowledge which may be enforced in the manufacture of motion pictures. Its inability to formulate final and lasting decisions for the group is not peculiar to the board regulating motion pictures. Many other workers, as well, have been equally at a loss to decide what shall or shall not be shown to boys and girls.

As a result of this skilled and constant work, the motion picture has developed into one of the most wholesome forms of public entertainment in the country. It ministers daily to hard-working people everywhere who heretofore had been hungry for such forms of recreation. In such questions of moral judgment, The National Board has undoubtedly made some mistakes. It is entirely willing to knowledge them and continually aims to arrive at more accurate conclusions. What group can be found in this country which can accurately hold the balance between the false and the true?

In all parts of the country, there are cities which have developed definite convictions which differ somewhat from their neighbors. The National Board, therefore, has been successful in developing local, volunteer committees with the authority of the mayor and the police behind them. These committees concentrate their attention primarily on the five per cent. of pictures which are not submitted to the Board. They insist that all of these shall first be reviewed before they appear in the motion picture houses. They are thus guarding society from those films in which there is the maximum of moral danger. They then devote their attention to those other pictures which, in the judgment of their fellow citizens, should be kept from the screen. By this procedure, the opinions of the city are directed by disinterested, unpaid representatives with the authority of the law behind them. As public sentiment becomes solidified this city plan of co-operation will be extended to other communities.

In startling contrast to this fair and democratic method of regulating the morals of motion pictures is the small state board under salary and politically appointed. This group must inevitably do destructive work. It insists on the submission of all pictures just before they are exhibited through the state. The opinions of three persons become final for millions of people living in diverse social conditions. It is inevitable that the people of the state should gather the impression that all films are bad until they are adjudged acceptable by this small board. The work, moreover, is done at a time when much money has been invested and great thought expended in the construction of films. Those who minister to the amusements of the people in photoplay houses are continually irritated. They never know the latest judgment of the official censors. They are, moreover, placed before the public as vendors of the dubious and the tolerated. When they see the people rocking with laughter and nightly drinking in the entertainment, is it any wonder they rebel against the political censor board which is superimposed on their business?

The issues then become clear-cut. Shall the small political censor group, doing essentially destructive work, take the place of that agency which represents public opinion and carries the process of criticism back to the period when constructive and preventive work can be done on a co-operative basis?

Shall the morals of society be safeguarded by the arbitrary decisions of a few political appointees or by a large group of trained volunteers who know the need of the people? Shall a great industry be irritated and hampered by law when time, money, skill and technical ability have been expended, or shall it be assisted to meet the needs of the public by intelligent democratic and disinterested criticism by a national body supplemented by those public-minded citizens who have the insight to diagnose public demand in the cities of the United States?

The National Board of Censorship believes in and stands for the latter way. Its position is based, not on sentiment, or theory, but on experience. It is convinced the American public believes that moral questions cannot be settled by LAW.

Brooklyn Citizen

March 1915

SEEK TO STOP GREAT FILM PLAY

Negroes Resent Scenes in "Birth of a Nation."

IS CAUSING UNREST; MAY LEAD TO TROUBLE

Colored People Feel That It Is a Libel on Their Race—Legal Action May Be Taken to Suppress It.

A campaign for the suppression of the new motion picture spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," the drama of Civil war, reconstruction and Ku Klux Klan days in the South, based upon Thomas Dixon's novel, "The Clansman," which opened in the Liberty Theatre, Manhattan, on Wednesday night, has been undertaken by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Evidence that the film is causing unrest among the negroes of the city, which it is feared may grow into open disturbances if the film continues to be presented, is the basis of the association's action.

Officials explained yesterday at the headquarters at No. 70 Fifth avenue that negroes had been coming to them to demand that action be taken to stop the film, and that the protests arise from an intense resentment against the characterization of the negro in the story, in the justification of the violence of the Ku Klux Kan. If their opposition to the film is not successful, these officers said, they fear for the results.

The negroes feel that the story of the picture play is a libel upon their race in that it represents the negro as either a primitive and ignorant brute or a vicious and treacherous criminal according to the officials of the association. Their opposition is backed up by the decision of the National Board of Censorship, after repeated consideration, against the film in its present form. The association also quotes Southerners who have seen the film and have expressed condemnation of it as an injustice to negroes. Rabbi Wise and the Rev. Dr. Percy Stickney Grant are to preach against it to-day. In addition, the association is pushing an attempt to get legal action to stop the film.

The fight to stop the film was begun after its release in Los Angeles, where a branch of the association there sent word that it was causing trouble among the negroes. It had already been viewed by a sub-committee of the National Board of Censorship, and passed; but officers of the association took the question up with Dr. F. C. Howe, chairman of the Board, and gained a decision for a review by the central body. This took place Monday afternoon, and after it the National Board reversed the decision of their sub-committee by a vote of sixteen to four.

The portions objected to were a section in which a negro was shown chasing a white girl until she was forced to save herself by leaping from a cliff, another scene in which a mulatto, attempting a forced marriage with a white girl through his political influence under negro franchise, seized her and carried her from the room and a scene in which negroes were shown drinking in a saloon.

A representative of the association went to Police Commissioner Woods, and he called the matter to the attention of Chief Magistrate McAdoo, who warned the owners against the production of the film and called a hearing for Wednesday noon. Deputy Police Commissioner Dunham and Inspector Morris expressed at this hearing the fear of the police department that the film might cause rioting. Mr. Kaufman, deputy commissioner of licenses, was also approached on the question of whether the film could be stopped under the law on decency.

At the magistrate's hearing, the attorney for the owners said that changes had been made in the film, to meet objections.

The film as changed, however, did not meet the approval of the association nor of the officials of the National Board of Censorship who attended the first night performance.

CHURCHMAN VOICED PROTEST ON "NIGGER" IN THEATRE

The Guardian

3/13/15

REV. JAMES E. CHURCHMAN OF ORANGE AND EDITOR MOTTLEY, OF THE N. J. ADVOCATE, UNLAWFULLY ARRESTED FOR PROTESTING AGAINST DAMNABLE PORTRAYAL OF THE NEGRO RACE—SPOKE OUT IN THE THEATRE DURING PLAY IN ELIZABETH, N. J.

Bailed by Citizens of Elizabeth Through Influence of Ex-Governor Fort, Who is Greatly Interested in the Case—In Lock-Up Several Hours.

(New Jersey Advocate, Apr. 30, 1915.)

Last Tuesday evening, Rev. James E. Churchman and Fitz W. Mottley, editor of this paper, were arrested in Elizabeth and charged with disorderly conduct while attending Proctor's Theatre, where "The Nigger," an obnoxious photo-play, was being produced.

Owing to the assistance of Undertaker Carey, Rev. Jones, of Shiloh Baptist church, who turned the city upside down in arousing the sympathies of Messrs. Peter Dates, Anderson, Davis and Hodwell Moseley. The latter two provided the bail of $500 for the defendants, pending the decision of the Grand Jury.

Mr. Peter Dates was among the first to pledge his property in Layfayette street, for the release of the gentlemen, but was refused by Judge Malone who would, not yield, until the influence of ex-Governor Fort was brought to bear upon him. He then rushed from his bed and signed the bonds, releasing the victims at 1 p. m., after about eight hours incarcerateion.

What Churchman Says.

My object in visiting Proctor's Theatre in Elizabeth on last Tuesday afternoon was to get first hand information as to the objectionableness of the play, "The Nigger." The title, "Nigger" is on its face odious and offensive to all self-respecting persons when seriously applied, whether they belong to the Colored or the white race, as is proven by the play itself, in an act where one elevated to the position of Governor of the state, up on being called a nigger, strikes the one who dared to utter such a word.

In making objections to the "Clansman," and "The Birth of a Nation," the question was asked, "have you seen the play?" Inasmuch as we had not witnessed a performance, we were incompetent to intelligently and justly protest against them, and so it was in the spirit of fairness and intelligent investigation that I went, hoping to see no ground for objection, but in spite of suppression of feelings, as the Negro rapist is hunted with bloodhounds, captured and lynched, we simply could not endure the representation that the time honored and aged "black mammy" is a vaccilating, equivocating, miserable sophist and lying creature, and the further representation that however advanced one may be, when made clearly conscious that he is in the slightest degree connected with the black race, he will forthwith and at once admit inherent and insurmountable inferiority.

The danger of the play lies in its insidious appearance of seeking to elevate the Colored race, while in fact the real aim is to establish an "impassable gulf" between the races. If the Colored and white races want an impassable barrier put up between the race in matters social, political and economic, then the "Nigger" is to be endorsed, commended and encouraged. If, on the other hand, they want manhood, advancement based on merit and absolute equality of opportunity for black and white alike, then the "Nigger" should be entirely suppressed at once.

WHITE PEOPLE'S NEWSPAPER CONDEMNS "THE NIGGER," IN ELIZABETH, N. J., WHERE CHURCHMAN AND MOTTLEY BROKE IT UP.

pressed by the ELIZABETH JOURNAL of April 29th—a paper printed and published by white people:

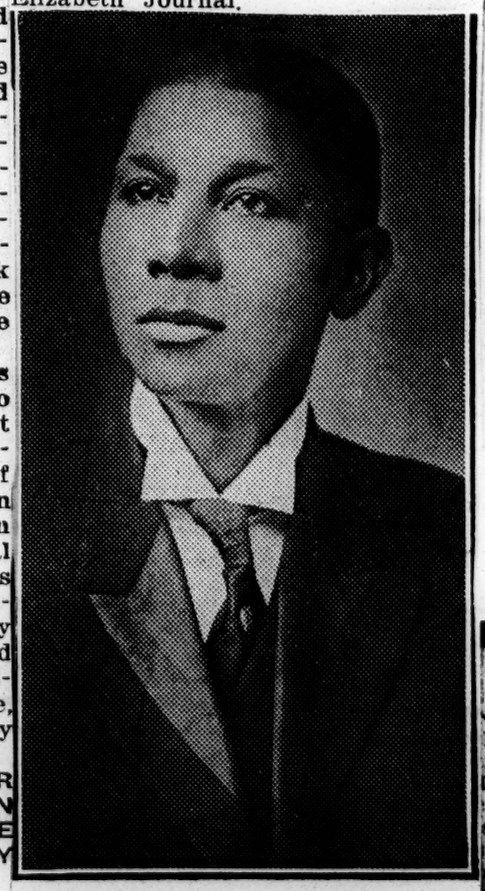
Editorial in Elizabeth Daily Journal "The Play, 'The Nigger.'"

"A representative of the Colored race, an intellectual man and a good citizen, in another column in today's Journal, protests against the production of the film-drama, entitled 'The Nigger.' This motion picture play occupied a place on the boards of a local theatre two days this week.

"There is merit in the protest of this representative of the Colored race. The play serves no good purpose. In name and in action it reflects upon a race that has enough other troubles without being libelled. It tends to stir race antagonism as the disturbance at the theatre on the last night of its production makes certain.

"The Colored race has had a hard row to hoe since it came out of slavery into so-called freedom. There have been many stones in the field and much hard ground. As a race the Negroes have done well, although often without good leadership and lacking such encouragment as should have been afforded by the more fortunate white race. It is hardly fair and never right to play this race up for its weaknesses instead of offering encouragment by playing up its better qualities and achievements.

"It is unfortunate that this play was produced in this city, where there are many Colored people among the population. It accomplished nothing but harm to them and to the city."—Elizabeth Journal.



REV. J. E. CHURCHMAN
of Orange, N. J., Who Now Thanks the Colored People of His State by Crying Out in Theatre Against "The Nigger" and was Arrested and Stopped Play.

Philadelphia Record

25 July 1915

"BIRTH OF A NATION"

American History Depicted on a Stupendous Field.

"The Birth of a Nation," D. W. Griffith's spectacle, starts today on its second week at The New Nixon Theatre, Atlantic City. In picture form are seen stirring events of American history, including the assassination of President Lincoln, the surrender of Robert Lee to U. S. Grant, the last gallant stand of the Confederates at Petersburg, Sherman's famous march to the sea and the saving of the South by the Ku Klux Klan. Realism is the keynote of the success of "The Birth of a Nation." To attain that, $500,000 was expended in building towns, a replica of Ford's Theatre in Washington, in which Lincoln was killed, and in laying out the vast battle grounds. Then there were 18,000 people to be paid. Three thousand horses were utilized. There are over 5000 scenes. The battle scenes are said by war observers, to be the most wonderful ever presented. Thousands of soldiers are seen in the trenches, battling in breastworks, charging over fields, masked batteries in action, a panorama of marching and countermarching troops. Love episodes in which a colonel of the South loves the sister of an officer of the North, and the officer of the North loves the sister of the Colonel of the South. Love turns to hate and then to love again, as each girl watches the grim struggle with partisan eyes and remains loyal to the land of her birth. These love themes are taken from Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman" and "The Leopard's Spots."

"The Birth of a Nation" is now in its sixth month at The Liberty Theatre, New York, and there and in Chicago it will be playing for a year to come. In Boston, San Francisco, Los Angeles and other large cities it is breaking all records and in Atlantic City it has started on what is evidently destined to be an all-summer run.

There are two performances daily, including Sundays, at 2.30 and 8.30 P. M.

Boston Herald

August 1915

TWO SCENES DELETED FROM "BIRTH OF NATION"

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., Aug. 17—The Negro opposition to certain scenes in the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," showing here at the New Nixon Theatre, has been successful. After conferring today with pastors of the four largest Negro congregations of the resort, Samuel Nixon, lessee of the playhouse, agreed to delete the scene in which "Gus the renegade" drives a white maiden to death and the one in which "Lynch," the Negro Lieutenant-Governor, tries forcibly to marry his benefactor's daughter.

The pastors are understood to have mentioned the lynching of Leo M. Frank in the interview.

"What stronger argument could we have at this time than the terrible thing which happened in Georgia?" said the Rev. E. M. Clark of Jericho Presbyterian Church. "These same people lynch our people in southland on the smallest evidence."

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

KEEP UP THE PROTEST

"The Birth of a Nation," the infamous photo-play which libels and humiliates our race, is here. How long it will continue to show we cannot, at the present writing, say. We doubt that this prejudice-ridden city can muster a strong enough sentiment to stop it.

We are glad to commend the efforts of Mayor Kiel and Prosecuting Attorney Sidener on our behalf. We are satisfied that each of these officials did what he could in the premises. A large delegation of representative Negroes waited upon them last Saturday and presented to each in turn a vigorous protest, clearly setting forth the evils of this insidious film and pointing out the dangers of its showing.

The Mayor convinced us of his inability, under existing statutes, to do anything, but pledged his influence, which he immediately exercised. Mr. Sidener promised to forbid the presentation under the threat of prosecution, and he immediately made good his promise.

Meantime, the film representatives secured a temporary injunction, and the production had its opening Sunday evening as scheduled. The Chief of Police sent a committee to witness the performance, both to be on guard against any possible disturbance and to report to him upon the character of the objectionable scenes. The case was to have been heard before Judge Kimmel Monday afternoon, but a continuance was asked until Wednesday. Wednesday saw another continuance.

There the matter stands, as we write. We are satisfied with our efforts so far. We feel that the officials above mentioned have done their best up to the present. We feel that our protest was justified and dignified. But by no means ought we to consider ourselves through.

Should the court decide against us and the injunction be made permanent, then what we have done should be considered only the beginning. Our protests should be continuous, firm and dignified. Our aim must be to create a sentiment so strong that the white people can see the justice of our position.

And further, should our protests and our agitation end in no immediate result and no apparent good, we must be broad enough and far-sighted enough to work for the uplift and advancement of the entire race—and not only for this day and generation, but for our posterity.

So the protest and agitation which we have begun we must continue.

THE CIVIL WAR IN FILM

THE FAMOUS FILM, "Cabiria," the product of D'Annunzio's imagination, has taken the front rank in picture-production hitherto. But a newcomer that reproduces the American Civil War in scenes of grandiose splendor makes its predecessor, says the New York *World*, "seem almost insignificant by comparison." Narrative photography has in this work by D. W. Griffith, called "The Birth of a Nation," taken a long step forward. Indeed, *The World* gives Mr. Griffith the easy leadership of motion-picture impresarii in this country. For those who are impressed by large numbers is told that eight months were consumed in transferring t scenes of battle and social turbulence to the reels, and t services of 18,000 persons were employed in one capacity another, to say nothing of 3,000 horses. Despite all this numer personnel to stage-manage, it is recorded that the "emotio throb of the story could be followed without the slightest c fusion." Hence the "great artistic value" of the productio These are the episodes covered:

"The story begins in the seventeenth century with the bri ing of African slaves to North America. Its further progr is closely related to varied phases of slavery and its beari upon the history of the United States.

"In the wake of the abolition movement comes the Civil W with its battles and the toll of death and broken hearts; Sh man's march to the sea, the burning of Atlanta, the down of Petersburg, Lee's surrender to Grant at Appomattox, assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the ordeal of the reconstr tion period, the Kuklux Klan, the establishment of everlast peace in the end.

"All of these historic scenes were given in detail. A drama human conflicts shown with well-drawn characters linked h tory to romance. For there is plenty of romance and exci ment in the play, which is participated in and woven about t adventures of a family of boys, one from the North and the oth from the South, whose association is broken up by the Civil War

The second part of the film, based upon a novel of Mr. Thom Dixon called "The Clansman," is viewed by the New Yo *Evening Post* as "an appeal to race prejudice as subtle an malicious as any that has been made in New York." We a given the observations of its reviewer in the terms:

"People were moved to cheers, hisses, laughter, and tears, apparently unconscious, and subdued by tense interest in the play; they clapped when the masked riders took vengeance on negroes, and they clapped when the hero refused to shake the hand of a mulatto who has risen by political intrigue to become lieutenant-governor. This remark, made by a typical New Yorker leaving the theater, characterizes the sentiment which was exprest in much of the comment: 'That show certainly does make you hate those blacks. And if it gets that effect on me, when I don't care anything about it, imagine what it would be in the South, with a man whose family was mixed up in it. It makes you feel as if you'd do the same thing.'

"That is the element which mars one of the most ambitious and successful picture-dramas which has yet been attempted; and it is an element which does not seem necessary to the effectiveness of the film. To show the fact that there were individual outrages which roused the Southern whites of the 60's to organized violence it does not appear necessary to characterize a race as either so vicious or so simple-minded that extermination or feudal control was the only method of managing them; and this is the conclusion of 'The Birth of a Nation.' The blame for much of the trouble is shown to have lain upon the unscrupulous or misguided white political leaders of the North, who went to excess in their power to institute radical measures for negro freedom and equality of right. Stoneman, known really under another name, the Congressional leader, who held the reins of influence after the assassination of Lincoln, is represented as the cause of reconstruction turbulence.

"The war-scenes in the first half of the play have been photographed with striking realism. Troops charging, artillery-trains galloping, flags waving, shells bursting over barricades, the flow of battle over a field miles in length, are shown in full detail; and immediately after the excitement of the charge there is the sight of trenches full of torn and tangled bodies. The truth of the horror of war is not forgotten in presenting its fascination. The assassination of Lincoln has also been well reproduced. The scene in the theater, with the play, 'Our American Cousin,' going forward on the stage, is shown in careful accordance with the historical accounts of it."

The Rev. Thomas B. Gregory writes in the New York *American* a certificate of the verity of the scenes presented in this film-play. "As an educator," he says, "its value is well-nigh inconceivable, and its chief value in this direction lies in its truthfulness." He declares:

"That the story as told by the picture is true I am ready to swear on the Bible, the Koran, the Zend, and all the other 'Holy Scriptures' put together.

"I know it is true, because I lived through the actual realities themselves. I saw the real carpet-baggers, the real 'New Voters,' the real reconstruction 'Statesmen,' the real Kuklux Klanners. I knew the real Stoneman, the real Lynch the real Camerons, and was a living part of the stupendous tragedy, watching it with wondering eyes and bated breath from its inception under the Stonemans and Lynches to its cessation under the invisible blows of the Kuklux Klan.

"I am prepared to say that not one of the more than five thousand pictures that go to make up the wonderful drama is in any essential way an exaggeration. They are one and all faithful to historic fact, so that, looking upon them, you may feel that you are beholding that which actually happened."

New York Globe

April 1915

DIXON ON HIS MOTIVE.

In another column is published a letter from Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," on which "The Birth of a Nation" is based, in which an attempt is made to meet the charge that both book and moving picture film are historically unfair and are calculated to revive sectionalism and to stimulate race prejudice.

In his letter Mr. Dixon disclaims a bad motive and affirms that he is controlled by a good one. As to his motive The Globe is not interested. What is pertinent with respect to a book or a stage production is not what its author says that he intended but the meaning its readers or spectators naturally and inevitably derive from it. It is not open to question that "The Birth of a Nation" is calculated to increase a prejudice against Negroes already cruelly and unjustly strong. It is only necessary to watch the behavior of the spectators at a performance of "The Birth of a Nation" to know what they understand. As to Mr. Dixon's real motives, we leave this question to his own conscience.

Should a film be prepared which should epitomize in moving picture form the lecture of Slattery, the ex-priest, it is possible that it could be proved that every scene in it could be historically supported. Yet such a presentation might be grossly unfair and viciously arouse religious prejudices. We don't believe many during a performance would be fooled by "inserts" to the effect that the producers disclaimed any desire to stir up religious feelings and were of good motive. The story of any people and concerning any series of events can be told in such a selective way as to be the worst sort of falsehood and yet every item be true.

As to Thaddeus Stevens and his relations to Lydia Brown, these may be wisely left in obscurity just as the relations of distinguished leaders of the south to other Lydia Browns may be left in obscurity. The place of Thaddeus Stevens in history is due to his authorship of the Fourteenth Amendment and to his unconquerable hostility to human slavery and his sympathy for and belief in a downtrodden race. His memory is not now attacked because of irregularities in his personal life but because of his leadership in the anti-slavery movement. His soul was a stormy one, and he was in earnest to the verge of fanaticism. Doubtless it can be established that not many of his words and proposals were unwise and extreme. The time in which he lived was troubled, and it is not surprising that if there was a Robert Toombs who proposed to call the roll of his slaves from Bunker Hill Monument, there was a Thaddeus Stevens who held that a great wrong should meet a great punishment.

The Globe has not demanded the suppression of "The Birth of a Nation." It does not like legal censorships. It prefers to think that the best way to end a bad cause is to give it the freest way to express itself. The best way to cure an abscess is to open it. Open plumbing is good. Nevertheless, while conceding to prejudice and ignorance and narrow-mindedness the freest privilege to exhibit themselves, this is no reason why there should not be equally frank recognition of their character when the exhibition occurs. It is possible that "The Clansman" and all its children may contribute through the reactions promoted by their rankness sympathy for rather than aversion to a much abused and long-suffering race.

Newburyport Herald

APR 21 1915

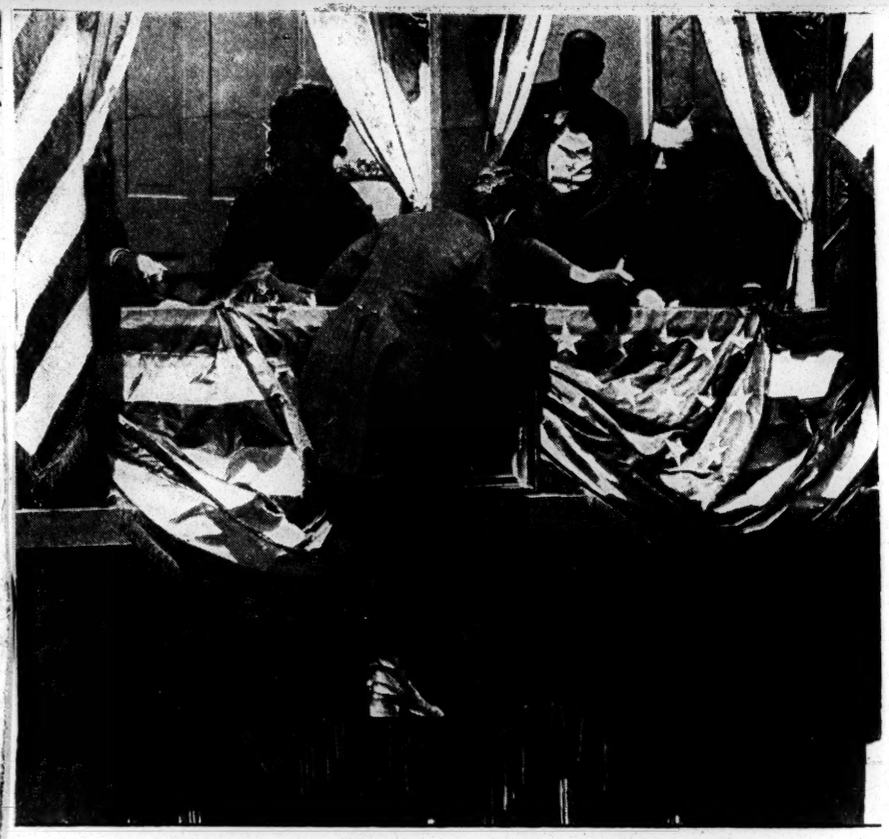
THE LOCAL FILM PROTEST

The Negro people of Newburyport made a strong but ineffective protest Saturday against the showing of the film version of EDWARD SHELDON'S play *"The Nigger"* at one of the local photoplay theatres. The management in deference to the feelings of the colored population of this city ran the film under the name which it actually bore, *"The New Governor,"* a name which had been selected for the very purpose of avoiding the comment that the producers were certain might be aroused in some places.

The local protest, we are glad to note, was made in a dignified manner and there was none of the hue and cry and the near-mob spirit that has marked the presentation of *"The Birth of a Nation"* in a Boston theatre. This latter film, by far the more elaborate of the two, is a film dramatization of THOMAS DIXON'S novel, *"The Clansman"* and is played under that title in the west and south but is given a more innocuous title in New York and New England where sentiment is supposed to be in favor of the Negro. It goes without saying that DIXON'S novel is not favorable to the Negro.

This newspaper, before the presentation of *"The New Governor,"* or *"The Nigger"* at the local theatre suspended judgment as to the advisability of the production but it was sure that the manager of the local theatre would not present a play that was the insult to the Negro race that the vigorous protests would lead one to think that *"The Nigger"* was. After seeing the film this newspaper is inclined to believe that there has been a great hue and cry about nothing. The film as presented is a portrayal of actual conditions and not at all a slur on the Negro race—in fact the renunciation of the hero himself a man of Negro descent, is the height of self-sacrifice in what he thinks is the right and sheds credit on the black race instead of shame.

We are inclined to think that the protest was caused by the title of the play which is a slang term for Negro and hardly a complimentary word. But after one has seen the play he cannot help but think that MR. SHELDEN has hit upon a title that expresses the idea of the play exactly, that conveys the prejudice of the south against the black man in politics and society. That the hero of the play, having been chosen to office on a "lily-white" ticket supported by the "whiskey ring" refuses to sign a bill he knows is bad to save his reputation and resigns the office he holds under a misapprehension is a high tribute to the Negro that every member of the race ought to see.



LINCOLN IN THE BOX AT FORD'S THEATER.

The film now reenacts the scene of Booth's attack on Lincoln. Successive scenes present the play on the stage, the audience, the presidential party, and the moment of the tragedy. If Booth had made this cautious descent,

THE IRRATIONAL CENSOR.

The question of censorship raised by the photo play "The Birth of a Nation" has revealed as much official muddleheadedness as any one could reasonably expect to be disclosed. Mayor Thompson is quoted as saying:

"Some of my friends who have seen it say that it ought not to be shown. There are several objectionable scenes. I understand that the assassination of President Lincoln is shown. I cannot understand how any one can approve of that sort of a picture under any circumstances. Anything of that kind simply breeds crime."

We have conceded that this photo play presents an intricate question and one which might govern public policy, but Mayor Thompson makes it apparent how blunderingly officialdom will approach and handle a delicate problem.

The fact that the assassination of Abraham Lincoln is represented with great effectiveness does not constitute a valid reason for forbidding the showing of the film. The emotion produced in the spectator who sees the acting of this tremendous piece of national tragedy is in kind, if of smaller force, that which filled Ford's theater when the crime was committed. It is poignant, but to say that the sobered folk who yield to it have been under a crime breeding influence is to take a wild flight into the extravagances of unreason.

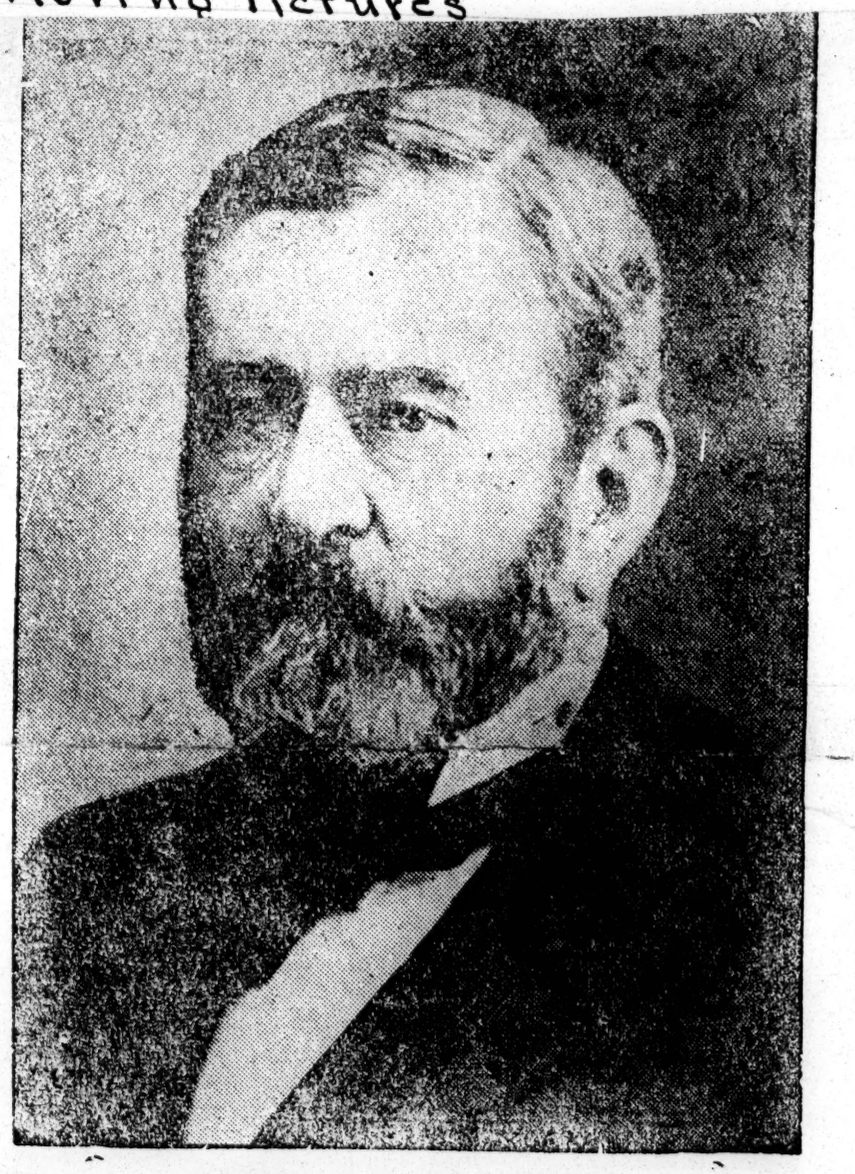
The question raised by "The Birth of a Nation" is simply and utterly one of public policy, to be determined either upon fact or upon the most intelligent presumption as to what would be found to be the facts. If the community were as intelligent as such a community ought to be, censorship would be an intolerable outrage upon it.

Intelligence does not need censorship. The greater the insistence upon censorship the greater the denial that the community has intelligence. We know that if moving pictures accessible to the immature, unreasoning, impressionable parts of the city portrayed the success of criminal acts, revealing their perpetrators in enjoyment of life easily made pleasurable, there would be an incentive to weak minds, and the public might suffer the consequences. The matter is one of public policy, and censorship, although in itself dangerous and abhorrent, is accepted as a necessary compromise.

But the question is always one of fact, and censorship, being in itself a denial of intelligence, or an acceptance of the fact that ignorance is impressionable, frequently proves that it itself is unintelligent.

The assassination of Abraham Lincoln, in whatever form it is brought to the attention, causes a reaction of profound horror and sympathy and of regret. It was a great and consequential fact in our national history. It meant immeasurable woe to the south. Few tragedies in history have had such appealing circumstances and such great consequences. And to contend that a representation of it "breeds crime" merely shows to what extremes of unreason censorship can and will go.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures



GENERAL ULY SSES S. GRANT.

The great general of modern times, who defeated the rebels who sought to destroy the Union and who a s President is the real enforcer of the Reconstruction work which "Bir th of a Nation" falsifies and derides —On 50th anniversary of Lee's s urrender to Grant, Mayor Curley decides whether Dixon's play is to b e permitted in Boston, whether Lee conquers Boston 50 years after.

NEW YORK MAYOR FAVORED ALTERING BOTH SCENES—PROMOTERS PROMISED AND DID NOT KEEP PROMISE—FIGHT THE MENACE TO THE LAST DITCH.

(Boston Globe, April 8, 1915.)

Whether the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation," scheduled to open here Saturday afternoon but against which objections have been made by many Colored citizens on the ground that it is a libel on their race and will incite race hatred, will depend on the opinions of the municipal censors after they attend a special invitation performance tomorrow night.

It is booked to open in the Tremont Theatre and the special performance tomorrow was arranged after a public hearing in protest given by Mayor Curley yesterday. Most of the several hundred persons present were Colored.

The Mayor said he had received a promise from David W. Griffin, author of the scenario, to cut from the film any part which the Mayor deemed objectionable. The feature to which remonstrants made the strongest objection was that showing a Colored man pursuing a white girl and she jumping off a cliff.

The photo-play is based on events of the reconstruction period. Mr. Griffith and his attorney, John F. Cusick, declared that it was based on historical facts. Moorfield Storey, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Rev. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity, Dr. Francis H. Rowley, J. P. Loud, Miss Mary White Ovington of New York, Rev. M. W. Thornton and W. M. Trotter of the National Independent Equal Rights League, some of whom had seen the films, argued that the play is based on a book alleged to be unfair to the Negro race.

Mr. Cusick declared the films had been approved by the National censors; that it has been presented in the East room of the White House and had received the approval of President Wilson, his Cabinet and 15 Senators and Representatives.

MAYOR REFUSES TO STOP PHOTO PLAY.

After offering to use his influence for the elimination of one scene in the photo play "The Birth of a Nation," which is to be produced at the Tremont theatre, Mayor Curley Wednesday afternoon late, brought the hearing on the petition of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People and the National Independent Equal Rights League that the production be disallowed, to an abrupt close, with the declaration that he would not interfere with the production.

"I shall allow the play to proceed and the municipal censor and a representative of the police commissioner may pass upon its merits," said the Mayor. "The hearing is adjourned." He then abruptly left the room.

Hiss Name of Wilson.

A feature of the hearing was the wave of hissing that swept through the crowd of more than two hundred people, mostly Colored, as the name of President Wilson was mentioned. The incident occurred as John F. Cusick, counsel for lthe theatre, told of the play's having been seen and approved by the President and his cabinet at the White House.

Among those who appeared in favor of the petition were B. R. Wilson, Esq., Secretary, who conducted the Association's part of the protest; Moorfield Storey, president of the Association; Dr. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity church; Joseph P. Loud, a Boston architect; Dr. Francis Rowley, the Rev. M. W. Thornton of the Equal Rights League and Monroe Trotter, secretary of the Equal Rights League.

Butler Wilson, counsel for the Association, was the first speaker. After declaring that the play tends to excite hatred for the Colored people and that "the whole play is suggestive of sensual excesses and an offence against common decency," he read letters from Jane Addams, Dr. Stephen A. Wise and other prominent sociologists, all of whom condemned the play. He then introduced Miss Mary White Ovington of New York.

Mayor Debates With Miss Ovington.

She declared that the play was offensive to common decency, especially denouncing the "sensual and bestial expressions upon the faces of the negro villians in the play and the decollete gowns of the women." The Mayor asked the witness if it were not true that the women of high society wear very low-necked dresses in fashionable hotels. Miss Ovington said that it is true, but that they don't wear the bestial expressions on their faces that are seen in the play.

Mayor Debates Against Witness

Witness said that the play shows only the depraved types of negro race, and is therefore liable to incite race hatred. The Mayor showed some of his old-time form as a Shakesperian scholar by asking the witness if she thought that the murders of Macbeth incite feeling against white race. He also said that he would not be justified in preventing the production of the "Merchant of Venice" because of the look on Shylock's face.

Mayor Refuses to Concede Evidence of Race Hatred.

"So far," said he, "no one has shown me the grounds upon which I can stand under the statutes to prevent the play. What your imaginations tell you is not sufficient. You imagine that a Negro wishes to attack a white girl because he chases her through a wood until she hurls herself from a cliff. This is not sufficient grounds for me to disallow the production of the play" He then gave instances of plays that he had closed up, showing the grounds upon which he could act.

Storey Says Mayor Should Object—If Play on Why Priests Should Wed, Hence on This.

Mr. Storey said that if the play goes through the country the white people who see it will want to kill every Colored man in the United States. He said, in answer to a question put by the Mayor, that he had never seen the play. "According to you," said Mayor Curley, "the production of almost every comedy on the stage should be prohibited because of the Irish, the Dutch, the Germans and the Jews."

Storey Intimates Mayor Argues for the Side of the Promoters.

"There is no effort to discredit these races in these comedies," replied M. Storey. "The effect of this play is to discredit the Colored race." The Mayor at this point started to say something and was interrupted by Mr. Storey. He asked Mr. Storey's permission to speak. "Go ahead if you represent the other side," was the reply. "I don't represent any side," replied the Mayor.

Dr. Alexander Mann, the next speaker, said that he had not seen the play, but that he had heard that it was pernicious in its effort. He urged the Mayor not to stick too closely to the letter of the law in disallowing the production.

Mayor Finally Admits Attempt to Lynch Possibly Objectionable.

Joseph P. Loud said that he had seen the play and that the whites had been made to appear as perfect men; and that the Negroes had been made to appear as beasts. He said that the scene in which a Negro chases a white girl up a hill until she throws herself over a precipice to escape from him was "horrible." He commented upon the lack of attire worn by some of the female characters in the play. The Mayor said that the only thing of an objectionable nature that had been presented at the hearing so far was the chase of the white girl by the Negro. He offered at this point, that that scene be struck out of the production. He then read a letter from the Rev. Thomas E. Gregory endorsing the play.

Protest by Nat'l. Independent Equal Rights League—Rev. Thornton on Philadelphia Mob.

At this stage the National Independent Equal Rights League sought a chance to be heard, as it had a half-dozen present to protest. Rev. Montrose W. Thornton, chairman of the Executive Committee, filled a need, as the Mayor stated that no actual instance shown of the play causing any physical clashes. Rev. Thornton spoke of the serious race riot in Philadelphia, when the authorities refused to stop the "Clausman." There were protests and throwing of eggs by Colored persons who got inside the first night, and the second night the Colored mob swarmed in front of the theatre so much as to block the streets and passage, and the theatre was closed, and the city attorney held the Mayor had a right to do this to protect human life. The Protestants wanted to avoid the need of such a clash. In New York Colored were excluded that whites might enjoy the degradation of the Colored.

Trotter Appeals to Mayor as One Colored Supported for Protection.

Chairman Thornton then introduced Sec. Wm. Monroe Trotter, who had rushed from Baltimore to be in time to protest, as one who had seen this very photo play.

Mr. Trotter told the Mayor that he had seen both the "Clansman" and this "Birth of a Nation" and that they were the self-same representation of Dixon's "Clansman" book, that the whole purpose of this photo-play was to disparage the Colored race, to convert the North to belief in the South's repression and disfranchisement by showing them unfit and the Colored men set upon just one thing, preying upon the white woman, the illiterate Colored raping white girl children, the educated using their control of the government to force marriage upon unwilling white women.

Mr. Trotter told the Mayor that he had been against Color prejudice, that he had denounced the lynchings of the South to the faces of Southern members in Congress, and for that reason the Colored people had voted for him for Mayor and he had promised to protect them and now they depended upon him for protection.

He narrated how the lynching Ku-Klux-Klan was justified and glorified, despite its lawlessness, all on the ground it was necessary to keep Colored men from siezing upon white women. He cited how the play sought to work up the unreasoning passion of white man, as showing just the face of the Colored leader with its leer after the beautiful white daughter of the Abolitionist, how the mulatto housekeeper was shown bearing her

breast and rolling her eyes, how the Colored people jubilated when the Colored legislature passed the law for marriage with whites, how the rape scene, and a house scene where the big Colored leader locked the white woman in his room, caught her up and took her into another room, had her gagged and bound, etc., were all so worked as to rouse the passions of white men to a hostile, retaliatory, even murderous feeling toward Colored men.

Does Injure Morals.

He told the Mayor he ought to construe with liberality the wording of the law and the clause "tending to injure the morals of the community," and that, as Mr. Storey had said, to create feeling of hatred, and desire to retaliate and injure, certainly were moral feelings and lowered the morals, as did the retaliatory spirit of men of both races in seing women attacked with sexual desire.

Mr. Trotter with great fervor, declared that no play which represented the men of one race as trying to rape or force into amrriage the women of the other races should be permitted in any civilized country. This was especially true when the men who did the raping, etc., were of the weaker race and the women of the dominating and stronger race, which makes it very dangerous. Mr. Trotter showed the extreme degree of segregation even in border states and denial of civil rights in Northern states, the spread of prejudice as a reason a play causing whites to turn against Colored as improper.

Editor Trotter stepped close to the Mayor, and telling him this play was by a Southerner seeking to flout Boston and her abolitionists, he appealed to him to stand up for his home city and her great men, and to protect his Colored friends and not have the seeds sown in his administration which would destroy Boston as the home of the Colored race.

Promoters Heard—Misrepresent by Claiming Play is True History.

Mr. Cusick, counsel for the theatre, said that the play is based upon historical fact, and that there is no attempt made to ridicule the Colored race. He said that the National Board of Censors had endorsed the play, and that there are as many white villains in the play as there are black. He said that President Wilson and his Cabinet had seen and endorsed the play. It was at this point that the hissing occurred. He then introduced David W. Griffith.

After asserting that the greatest "villains" in "The Birth of a Nation" were whites, Cusick introduced David W. Griffith, who wrote the scenario and produced the play. He produced letters from Catholic clergymen and other prominent members of the cloth, and instructors in New York, in which the photo play was praised, and he personally, commended for his work.

Would Cut Out Only One Scene.

Upon being asked by the mayor if he would eliminate the scene showing Gus, the Negro, pursuing the white girl, he said he would if it were insisted upon. The Mayor then said that he did not want to make political capital out of the affair, and decided that the picture should be produced in its original form at a trial performance Friday night. He said he would have the official censors present, and if it was determined that the photo play violated the law, it would be stopped. Concluding he said:

"You people have stated your case. You have introduced no evidence that I could use in stopping at least one performance."

Why Not Stand For Boston's Side?

The White South succeeded in their objection to play Uncle Tom's Cabin because it portrayed the side of slavery reflecting upon the white South. It was radically changed.

Why should not a photo play of slavery days, which reflects upon the white people of the North and the Colored people be forbidden in the North, especially in Boston?

What About the Catholics?

We seldom, if ever, refer to the Roman Catholics as such. We have been told this church is free from color prejudice. On this account many Colored Protestants refuse to join the white Protestants against them. But here comes a play that our editor has seen and which unquestionably seeks to endore the Klu-Klux, and disfranchisement, and to make Colored men odious to whites. Yet the producers boast of the support of Roman Catholic clergy and of the journalist of the Knights of Columbus. The display advertisement carries this in bold type—Three of these (endorsers) were priests of the Catholic church—What does this mean? Is this church with the South against us Colored people?

FOUGHT TO THE ROPES.

The "Clansman" is being fought to the ropes by the colored people all over the country. A few days ago Major Jackson, one of the colored members of the Illinois legislature, the lower house, succeeded in having a bill passed by that body barring "The Nigger," "The Clansman" and "The Birth of a Nation" moving pictures from exhibtion in that state. The bill was passed by a vote of 111 to 2. The large majority is indicative of the sentiment in the state. Democrats, Republicans and Socialists joined in the move to keep out what have become known as strife breeders. The final outcome of the bill seems assured.

In a city in Minnesota the "Clansman" was removed from the public library by the board of which is entirely of white women. This was accomplished through the efforts of the wife of a prominent colored attorney. Elsewhere the race is thundering away at the pernicious productions. Dr. Booker T. Washington is an active leader in the effort to shut out the pictures which are so big with mischief. There is a remarkable oneness in this matter, so much so that many white persons have joined the crusade with the colored people. And there is no reason why they should not. We are citizens and as such should not be made the butt of ridicule in the interest of race feeling.

"The Birth of a Nation" is meant as the Negroes' civil death; seemingly, built for that purpose, and by persons who have axes to grind, to use the expression of Benjamin Franklin. Not only the race's civil death is meant; it is a covert attack on the Union cause of the 60's, seeking to blow into flames what yet lingers of those passions incident to Negro slavery. Perhaps the white America would not suffer because government without slavery is assured. But the Negroes, the bone of contention, could become a thing of the meanest contempt if ugly reminders still freely play inviting attention to the uglier past.

"Let by-gones be by-gones" seems to writ no where in the creed of this proselyting propaganda. It can have nothing in view except the disruption of the government unless the fearful price of a new enslavement is paid. This is not a physical slavery but spiritual, the silencing of the Negro's voice even in his own affairs not to speak of those of his country. It means the enlargement of hurting special laws, if not by actual enactment, then by the no less effective thing, the concensus of opinions of a ruling caste.

If we are mistaken in the deep and mean import of these pictures then so much the better. But hear A. E. Pillsbury in the Boston Herald of May 5:

Having seen the moving-picture show called The Birth of a Nation, and found it to be very different from what I had been led to expect, I am strongly impressed that the controlling reason why it ought to be excluded from exhibition in Massachusetts has not been brought out as it should be.

I supposed its most offensive feature to be its defamation of the Negro. Much as I object to this, on grounds both of justice and policy, the fundamental objection to this play lies deeper. It is covert, but most skillful and insidious defamation of the Union cause, and apotheosis of slavery and rebellion. We of the white race should be first to rise against it, and we do ourselves no credit by leaving it to our colored fellow-citizens to protest. With the exception of the Lincoln episodes, where it cunningly defers to a sentiment that can not safely be trifled with even in the law-abiding North—though it is impossible to overlook a touch of coarse caricature in the face of the Lincoln—it is, from the rising of the curtain unto the going down of the same, a pack of pictured lies so grotesquely false that but for their malice and their power of mischief, as addressed to the eyes of a generation comparatively uninformed, they would be simply laughable. Of some of the displayed incidents most calculated to exalt rebellion and excite sympathy for the (white) victims of reconstruction, probably there is not one authenticated instance in the whole history of the war and reconstruction period. Purporting to be historical, it is history upside down, a complete inversion of historical truth. If special pains are taken to villify the Negro, it is because he is the special object of the propaganda for repeal of the 14th and 15th amendments of which this play is unquestionably a part and if tolerated will be a subtle and effective instrument. The most amazing feature of the whole performance is the glorification of the Ku Klux Klan, for which alone it might have been composed. Fancy a depiction of that "secret, black and midnight" horde of lawless ruffians whose career of outrage and murder is unhappily part of the history of the country, as arising out of a chivalrous purpose to protect white women against Negro lust, drawing applause, probably sincere, from an honest Massachusetts audience! Yet they emerge at the end with the principal honors of the piece.

This pictorial recrudescence of the rebellion is a gross libel upon the Union cause, upon its public leaders, Lincoln only excepted, upon every soldier, living or dead, who fought for it, and upon the whole people who supported it. Slavery and rebellion were right, the South was outraged by emancipation, the attempt to secure the Negro in his freedom was a crime for which wholesale murder was the proper remedy, the Negro was unfit for freedom and is unfit for civil rights, the Yankees were vandals, the rebels the true chivalry, and the Ku Klux Klan the heroes of the whole drama. This is the moral of the tale, conveyed with skilful innuendo and most consummate art. It gambles on the public ignorance of our own history, and as a vast majority of people are more impressed by what they see than by what they read or hear, it is liable to win by permanently lodging a radically false conception in the public mind.

One can not reasonably doubt that a terrible crusade of hate is on after reading after such men and from such journals as the Boston Herald. It is silent, insinuating even to the extent of deceiving and taking in the white masses as to the real intent not to speak of the imperturbed Negroe who need more than spiritual or psychological shocks to arouse them to what's going on. The meaning of this terrible crusade will never enter the thick of our race unless the great forces among us drive the thing home, and as they are doing with considerable success. There is no doubt but what we are being preyed on by skillful, designing men who laugh and lure us to destruction at the same time. They are like those vampire bats that fasten to the flesh, suck the blood, and at the same time the victim is cooled and soothed by the fanning of its wings.

"MORALS—MORALITY."

Mayor Curley insisted at the hearing that the "Birth of a Nation" must be proven to be "immoral" or "tend to injure the morals of the community." He seemed to insist that moral or morals meant but one thing—that not obscene or not lewd. Mr. Storey, Wm. Trotter, Rev. Rowley asserted that lawlessness, hatred for race, desire to assault or kill for race, were immoral, that they injured the morals of the community, all these plainly being induced by viewing the photo play. So what is the true definition of the word "moral?"

It will be admitted that Webster's dictionary is the standard and absolutely authoritative. It says of "moral":—"Relating to the practice, manners or conduct of men as social beings in relation to each other and with reference to right and wrong. The word moral is applicable to actions that are good or evil, virtuous or vicious and has reference to the law of God and the standard by which their character is to be determined." "In general, moral denotes something which respects the conduct of men and their relations as social beings whose actions have a bearing on each other's rights and happiness and are therefore right or wrong, virtuous or vicious."

It cannot be denied that "men's relations to each other with reference to right and wrong" certainly comprehends race prejudice, hatred, assault, murder, and hatred is incipient murder and the very nature and manner of this play creates race prejudice, race hatred and more. It necessarily does so when justifying murder by bands of midnight assassins called to prevent black men from raping or taking advantage of well-born white women.

"Actions that are good or evil," certainly comprehends race prejudice and race hate and admiration for lawlessness and murder as revenge. Such are certainly "vicious" sentiments. They surely have a "bearing on each other's rights and happiness." All these sentiments and passions come under the wording "Are therefore either right or wrong."

Webster does not confine moral to lewd or lascivious, so the Mayor does not have to unless he desires to do so, and we cannot see why now, after mutual loyalty between himself as a public official and the Colored people of Boston as citizens and voters who have been loyal to him even under criticisms and who enabled him to become Mayor and thus vindicate himself from hostile charges as they did at a time when he was in need of help.

With these definitions of "moral" and the law saying only "tend to injure," and with the precedent of the Clansman, which is just like this photo play except in mechanical form, being stopped by Mayor Fitzgerald and by the Mayor of Worcester absolutely under this same statute, and in Springfield the photo play "The Nigger," not as extreme as this play, we certainly see no necessity or justification of permitting the "Birth of a Nation" because of the law. Surely there is no other justification. We trust the Mayor will consider this and not permit this terrible injury to his Colored fellow-citizens whom his very office, if not all the past on both sides, calls upon him to protect from an effect which will prevent others from ever feeling as friendly toward them or their race as now. Oh, Mayor Curley, don't be the one to permit in Boston the example spot to the country of the Colored people's rights what has never yet happened here. Don't give the Negro-hating South its first inroads upon the Boston whose best tradition it hates and upon whose ablest citizens it desires revenge. Save us, don't injure us.

Race Problem — 1915

Moving Pictures

Commenting on the historic value of "The Birth of a Nation," *The Outlook* says in part:

The difficulty with Mr. Dixon as a purveyor of history is that he is not a historian. A historian not only presents true incidents from the past, but, if he is fair-minded and impartial, takes care that the incidents are representative and typical. Many of the most effective and most misleading scenes in "The Birth of a Nation" doubtless occurred some time, somewhere, in the South. Chosen as the whole picture of the Reconstruction period, however, they are unfair and vicious. Mr. Dixon has "a single-tracked mind," and the track leads only through a very unpleasant country. He is a partisan, and a dangerous one. He can see questions only in broad splotches of black and white. He knows but one side of Southern life, the sex problem of "Aryan and African."

As Mr. Dixon rightly believes and dramatically shows, the American nation was born from the travail of the civil war and the injustice of the Reconstruction period,, and therefore his photo drama threatens no reopening of the wounds of the white North and the white South. The evil in "The Birth of a Nation" lies in the fact that the play is both a denial of the power of development within the free Negro and an exaltation of race war.

It would be difficult, indeed, to paint in colors dark enough the shame of the Reconstruction period. To say this is not to excuse the offense of a writer who distorts this shame and keeps the blurred picture—"history."

Dixon, or rather the Rev. Mr. Dixon, is getting a lot of notoriety and "The Birth of a Nation" is getting columns of free advertising, but such publicity will not redound to the credit of the promoters in the long run. **This they will find out sooner or later to their chagrin.**

In other large Northern cities the colored citizens are preparing to resist any attempt of Dixon and his confederates to produce "The Birth of a Nation." Dr. Henry M. Minton and Dr. A. B. Jackson of Philadelphia have petitioned the State Censor to ban the picture as objectionable, and Maj. R. R. Jackson of Chicago has introduced a bill in the Illinois Legislature which will keep "The Birth of a Nation," and other photo plays that degrade and ridicule races, out of the Windy City. Let colored Americans in other cities please take notice!

THE GLOBE VS. RACE HATRED.

The New York "Globe" published three editorials last week that stirred the entire Negro population of this city with feelings of renewed hope and courage.

When a great paper like "The Globe," three times in a week, makes a defense of us as a race and a plea for justice and fairness, we have a right to feel hopeful and encouraged.

These three editorials were written in disapproval of the Dixon-Griffith photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation"; but they constituted a great deal more than a mere disapproval. From the first of them we quote two paragraphs as follows:

> Another big fact of the reconstruction period is that the 4,000,000 former slaves, suddenly emancipated but with no way of earning their livelihood except by working at small wages for their former masters, displayed, all things considered, the most exemplary patience. They had protected the women and children on the plantations while the struggle went on which was to decide whether they were to become men or to remain as chattels, and the great body of them continued to exhibit, under the most trying circumstances, docility and kindliness. To present the members of the race as women chasers and foul fiends is a cruel distortion of history. Bad things occurred, but what man will say that the outrages of black on white equalled in number the outrages of white on black? Which race even to the present day has the better right to complain of the unfairness and brutality of the other?
>
> White men in this country have never been just to black men. We tore them from Africa and brought them over as slaves. For generations they toiled without recompense that their white owners might have unearned wealth and ape the ways of artistocracy. The nation finally freed them, but has but slightly protected them in the enjoyment of the legitimate fruits of their freedom. We nominally gave them the vote, but looked on inactive when the right was invaded. We do not, in any state of the Union, grant to the Negro economic and political economy. No white man of proper feeling can be proud of the record. The wonder is that the Negro is as good as he is. Then to injury is added slander. To make a few dirty dollars men are willing to pander to depraved tastes and to foment a race antipathy that is the most sinister and dangerous feature of American life.

This first editorial immediately arrayed against "The Globe" various champions of race hatred as a religion and a business. Letters were written by the Rev. Thomas B. Gregory, the Rev. (?) Thomas Dixon, D. W. Griffith and quite a number of unknowns.

Being familiar with the sentiments of the two Rev. Thomases, we are not surprised at any narrow, bigoted, unchristian, uncharitable view they might express. They are both professional Anglo-Saxons, and there is no fiercer or more ferocious beast that is allowed to roam at large. And, yet, strange to say, both of their letters were rather tame and spiritless. The Rev. (?) Thomas Dixon made much of the charge that Thaddeus Stevens, who is the Stoneman of the photoplay, lived with Lydia Brown, a colored woman, as his mistress. To this charge "The Globe" in its second editorial replied in the following words:

> As to Thaddeus Stevens and his relations to Lydia Brown, these may be wisely left in obscurity just as the relations of distinguished leaders of the south to other Lydia Browns may be left in obscurity.

If Dixon has any answer to those few words, we should like to hear it.

One of the unknows, who signed his letter Max Grab, had this to say:

> The criticism of the Photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," is, in my opinion, totally unjustified. If anybody who should see "The Birth of a Nation" should feel bitter against the colored race, what effect would "The Huguenots" have on the average man who goes to the opera?

From this correspondent's name we should judge that he belongs to a race whose members should be among the last to condone prejudice. **But this is what we wish to say to Mr. Grab, that if he ever makes an argument of that kind to a jackass, he'll get his brains kicked out.**

The letters of Gregory and Dixon were tame, but Griffith foamed at the mouth, and proceeded to call the writer of "The Globe" editorials "a liar and a coward." **Griffith is not so well known as Gregory and Dixon; so, perhaps, he took this rather over used method of establishing his status as a "Southern gentleman."**

Mr. Griffith goes on to say that "The Birth of a Nation" depicts good Negroes as well as bad Negroes. Our difference with Mr. Griffith on this point is most likely a matter of terms. What Mr. Griffith means when he says "good Negroes" is undoubtedly what is meant in certain sections by the more colloquial phrase of "good niggers." At any rate, Mr. Griffith takes the only intelligent colored man in the play and makes him a villain and a fiend; while he takes a couple of bowing, scraping, sychophantic old darkies, and holds them up as the highest type of Negro. Mr. Griffith claims that no characters are applauded with greater fervor than the "good Negroes"; this very fact is proof of the kind of light in which the Dixon-Griffith play places the race. **Not in this whole picture, which is supposed to represent the birth and growth of the nation, is there one single Negro who is both intelligent and decent.**

Griffith devotes some special words to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He attempts to taunt the officers and members by calling the society a "pro-intermarriage organization." This is an old pro-slavery trick, and "The Globe" showed it up in the following words:

> As to the intermarriage question, on which D. W. Griffith lays so much stress in his letter to "The Globe," Lincoln often encountered it in his day. Douglas constantly taunted him with the question as to whether he wanted to marry a Negro. He responded that he could not see that any aversion he might have to making a black woman his wife was a reason why he should want to make her his slave. The intermarriage stuff in the Griffith film he would regard as full cousin to the same sort of nonsense that he had so often heard. He felt sure there was much danger of undesirable blood mixture through illicit relations, which were inevitable if one race was degraded, while there was no danger through regular marriage. Lincoln would not be more impressed by Mr. Dixon's solicitude concerning race purity than he was by the similar solicitude of Douglas. He was of the opinion that such anxiety merely indicated a general desire to be unjust to the Negro and to get an excuse for the injustice.

But do not think that Mr. Griffith's letter was entirely one-sided. In a sentence of eleven words he admits that slavery was an economic mistake. Let us say to Mr. Griffith that the South and

he whole country would be fortunate if slavery had been merely an economic mistake; for it could have been paid in dollars and cents.

But slavery was a great moral mistake. Slavery was a great national sin. And it must be paid in suffering.

And let Dixon and Griffith bear this in mind, "The Birth of a Nation" is also morally wrong; and it, too, will exact its toll of suffering from somebody.

Those responsible for the picture claim that it was not produced for the purpose of stirring up race hatred and injuring the Negro; whether they are sincere or not doesn't matter; the fact remains that the picture does accomplish just these things. This is well illustrated by the following incident: A white gentleman of this city, a prominent lawyer and a man deeply interested in the welfare of colored people, took his two boys to see the play. On coming out of the threatre the elder said to him, "Father, I don't suppose you will think so much of your colored friends now." If the picture thus impressed a boy whose mind is unbiased, it can be imagined what its effect is upon persons already poisoned with the virus of race prejudice.

There appears to be no legal way of stopping "The Birth of a Nation," but the press of the city can rightly put the production in bad repute. We hope that other great publications will follow the example of "The Evening Post," "The World" and "The Globe."

WHEN PROTEST FAILS---?

Regrettable as race riots and race discord may be the colored citizens of the North must make up their mind to keep their equal rights by dignified and manly protest when sufficient—but by force of physical objection if necessary. When their personal character ceases to gain for them their unalienable rights, when the timid and time-serving officials fail to protect them from insult and outrage, it devolves upon them as men and American citizens to do it themselves. All honor to the heroic young white man who rotten egged "The Birth of a Nation" at the Liberty Theatre last Thursday evening. What colored men have lacked the courage to do for their own race this young lover of liberty has had to do for them. The costs of his defence of the race the colored citizens of New York must bear. We sincerely hope and trust that Mayor Mitchel will now see the wisdom of stopping th eproduction that is nightly adding fuel to the flames of race unrest in this city. Before colored men follow the example of young Schaeffle, before black men and white men shed blood on Forty-second street, panic ensues and lives are lost we advisedly urge Mayor Mitchell to use his police power and stop, as is the duty of the city's Chief Executive, the vicious, incendiary, anti-race play, "THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

All honor to the hundreds of colored citizens of Boston who on Saturday night stormed and rioted in patriotic and manly protest, at the box office of the Boston Theatre, where the film is being shown. Thireen brave colored and white men and women were arrested during their violent protest. We do not know that Mayor Curley has already ordered the "Birth of a Nation" stopped. But this we do know. One more such demonstration by the uncowed colored citizens of Boston will be a splendid aid in helping Mayor Curley make up his mind. One more such demonstration by the colored people of Boston and the colored people of New York, Chicago, Kansas City, Denver, St. Paul, Seattle and San Francisco, with all the hamlets in between will summon up courage to the mayors' duty for them. THE SOUTH HAS THROWN DOWN HER GAUNTLET. Within two hours after the protest to Mayor Mitchel at City Hall, Thomas Dixon, in the presence of an unobserved New York News man, sent pell-mell throughout the country with personal letters to Mayors, the advance agents of his play, harbingers of civic hell and destruction. The South, intrenched and insidious, is seeking to crystallize anti-Negro sentiment throughout the North. As PART OF THAT putrid and anarchistic POLITICAL PROGRAM WOODROW WILSON from the REBEL point of view, started in Monday's New York Sun his "History of the American People. It is the PATRIOTIC DUTY of the BLACK MEN of the NORTH to ACCEPT THE SOUTH'S CHALLENGE. Join the issue here and NOW. Let colored men take their stand on the issue of "The Clansman." Destroy it! If the South can both poison the minds of the North and persecute black men, gentiles will be able to poison in the same way public sentiment against the Jews and persecute them; Protestants in the same way will be able to make unholy war against Catholics; the classes will be able to arraign black men and foreign whites against the nation's white masses and vice versa, and bring on country wide anarchy and bedlam. Let every black man in the North worthy of the name take his patriotic stand against the seditious photo film "The Birth of a Nation." TELL THE SOUTH TO HALT right where she is IN WASHINGTON, that she shall not succeed except at HER OWN PERIL in YOUR further CRUCIFIXION.

We mince words no longer. When the spineless Mayors of your town FAIL to act, YOU MUST ACT. Colored citizens throughout the country, STOP "THE BIRTH OF A NATION!"

New Board of Censors Refuses to [illegible] Theatre License for Photo Play

The newly formed Board of Censors for theatres and photo-plays refused a petition of more than 6000 people, last night, to suppress "The Birth of a Nation" at the Tremont Theatre.

A brief statement, issued by Mayor Curley, chairman of the board, announced the defeat of the protesters after a lengthy hearing had been held in City Hall. Although the corridors of City Hall had been thronged throughout the afternoon, few people were left when the decision came, and there was no demonstration.

It proved a severe blow to the colored people, who have conducted a six weeks' agitation against the photo-play. On their request the Legislature had created the Board of Censors, which has now found against them.

But the leaders of the agitation against "The Birth of a Nation" are still confident of suppressing the pictures which they allege libel the entire negro race. Attorney Butler R. Wilson, who has championed the cause of the colored people, declared last night that the action of the censors has caused widespread disappointment, but has not discouraged his people from the belief that there is another way.

FIGHT WILL CONTINUE

None of the leaders could state positively what their next step would be. All insisted that the fight would continue, but in what form they could not state until after conferences which they will hold today. Equally confident are the producers of the photo-play in the belief that the pictures are not immoral and cannot be suppressed.

John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre, said last night:

"I am sincerely glad that 'The Birth of a Nation' has been passed and application to revoke the license refused, because the judgment of the directors in booking the play has been thereby justified. Whatever inequality may have been felt in regard to the historical treatment of the negro in some parts of the film has been removed by the incorporation of the Hampton Institute film, which shows the marvellous progress of the colored race since reconstruction.

"We believe 'The Birth of a Nation' to be not only legally permissible, but also as now given a thoroughly impartial story holding the scales of justice even. We therefore invite the support of all the people of New England, and we beg to say that no malice is felt toward anyone whomsoever that has opposed the production in this city. To the more than hundred thousand patrons who have seen it and to the 15,000 people who in the last 10 days have signed petitions protesting against any interference, we extend our hearty thanks."

A Long Agitation

The agitation against "The Birth of a Nation" began with a riot outside of the theatre during the first week of its production. Many arrests were made at that time and strong police guards were necessary to quench other disturbances that were threatened.

The film was modified and one scene, depicting a negro pursuing a young white girl, was eliminated. Mass meetings were held by colored people throughout Greater Boston. Aid was sought from the Legislature and after one bill had been amended to the approval of the protesters, a board of three was created to censor all theatricals.

This board includes Mayor Curley, as chairman, Chief Justice Wilfred Bolster of the Municipal Court and Police Commissioner Stephen O'Meara. After a preliminary meeting at which the board organized and planned its future action, the members viewed the photoplay at the Tremont Theatre and yesterday afternoon granted a hearing to both sides in the controversy, at the Mayor's office.

Aside from the members of the board, these were admitted to the hearing chamber: Corporation Counsel John A. Sullivan, legal adviser of the board; J. Mott Hallowell, former Assistant United States Attorney-General William H. Lewis and Butler R. Wilson, representing the protestants, and Attorney John F. Cusick, representing the theatre interests.

John A. Sullivan, corporation counsel, was also present.

W. Munroe Trotter arrived late and vainly sought the room with the censors. The 100 remonstrants remained about until 5, when under the City Hall rules, the Mayor's office was closed officially. They then retired to the corridors and there remained until Mr Wilson and Mr Lewis appeared, about 6:30. Mr Hallowell left soon after and in a few minutes Mr Cusick came out and the board went into executive session.

The Mayor, in summing up the hearing, said that the board had agreed to allow each side a half-hour to argue, but each side took an hour. The censors, after counsel had retired, went over the petitions and all other papers in the case, taking 40 minutes to arrive at its conclusion.

The leaders of the remonstrants said petitions had been handed to the board containing 6181 names.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

To the Editor of The Dispatch.

Sir: I note in your "Mail Bag" of today a communication signed "See Right," in which the determination and intention of the writer not to see right was so evident that a ten-year-old child could see his purpose.

By what manner of logic does "See Right" reach the conclusion that the action of the film censors in rejecting the "Birth of a Nation" is a political move? Why does not "See Right" discuss the merits of the picture instead of advancing argument to cause the colored citizens to become dissatisfied with the political recognition given them? Why does he ask "Are the intelligent white voters of Ohio going to permit the governor to trade their rights for the good will and votes of a small minority?" Why, I ask, does he ask this question except to arouse prejudice against the negro? Only this and nothing less. This same spirit actuated Dixon in the production of the "Clansman," the "Leopard's Spots" and the "Birth of a Nation."

"See Right" adroitly insinuates a method which might be used in Ohio to deprive the negro of the right of franchise, and then says, "While there is not much probability of there being any such laws enacted in this state, there are times when 'forbearance ceases to be a virtue' and the colored voters had better be careful not to overstep their rights and in so doing trample upon the rights of an intelligent white electorate." Will any fair-minded white man claim the refusal to permit the display of pictures calculated to create friction between races, by giving prominence to scenes and incidents, actual or alleged, in the lives of one of them would be any infringement upon the rights of the other? Was it politics that caused the Irish in New York to protest against a theatrical play reflecting upon them, or of the Jews in resenting public misrepresentations of their race?

Are not human rights superior to dramatic rights?

Mr. "See Right" asks, "Will not this discrimination against the white voters of Ohio arouse more prejudice and resentment than would have been aroused by permitting the picture to be shown? Is it not a fact that "See Right" is already prejudiced and seeks, by magnifying the rejection of this film by the state board to arouse more prejudice and resentment?

The negro, not because he is a negro, but because he is a man, an American citizen, one who has bought the right of citizenship by loyal service, by industry, by frugality and by character — as such he protests against false, malicious misrepresentation as is the purpose of the "Birth of a Nation," and he also declares that these objections are not in any sense political.

The negro asks no special privilege, nor special consideration, only justice, as Dr. Gladden defines it, viz., "Justcie is the recognition of the brotherhood of man and to be treated with fraternal good will."

The board of censors deserves praise for its action, and it is my opinion that the white citizens of Ohio approve its stand, even though Mr. "See Right" does not see right.

Edward L. Gilliam.

Columbus, Ohio.

New York Times

16 April 1915

SO remarkable and elaborate a photoplay as "The Birth of a Nation," which is now drawing crowded houses in half a dozen cities, is familarly used to instance how far motion pictures have gone, but it might be quite as aptly used to suggest how far they have still to go. For all its enormous cost and care, for all its impressive pageantry of arms and men, it is, we may hope, not the last word in motion pictures. It is simply the latest word. The photoplay, if not in its infancy, gives evidence of being still in its callow youth.

There are certain tricks of the trade the movie will outgrow. It will surely outgrow, for instance, that trick technically known as the "cut back," which shifts the scenes back and forth in the irresponsible and mischievous manner of the dancing spot of light reflected from the mirror in a small boy's hand. The film director, flushed with the realization that he could move about with a freedom unknown to the stage, has been so delighted with this liberty that he has indulged himself incontinently, without pausing to consider that he might be playing havoc with that precious element called tension. It is easy to predict that the cut back, and similar evidences of restlessness, will fade gradually from the screens, to be used only on special occasions to follow, say, such converging lines as Dickens traced so effectively when the three men gathered in Jasper's rooms on the night of Edwin Drood's disappearance, or as Barrie traced when, in the book, he followed through the thunderstorm the separate paths leading up the hill where the Lady Babbie and Gavin Dishart were being married.

But these are rather lofty comparisons, and a recent visit to several films shown hereabouts suggests forcibly that the analogies might be sought more properly in literature of another plane. For observe the tone that is given to "The Birth of a Nation" by the captions, or "flashes," that tell of the "poor bruised heart of the South," that speak of "the opal gates of death," and make such utterances as this:

"The Love strain is heard by fond hearts above the land's miserere."

They sound as if they had been written by Harold Bell Wright in an off moment and been revised by Florence Barclay.

You might make a dozen predictions as to the work of the film director of the future. You may be sure, for example, that he will not jostle so many people into a scene that the thread of the story is lost in the crowd, nor will he, in preparing an old stage favorite for the screen, toil dutifully to get so

OHIO GOVERNOR STOPS OBJECTIONABLE MOVIE

Special to The New York Times.

Cleveland, Ohio, April 8.—The projected presentation in this city of the objectionable movie film, "The Nigger," was stopped by the action of the State Board of Film Censors, largely through the active and aggressive fight led by Harry C. Smith, editor of the Cleveland *Gazette*. He was ably assisted by the local ministers' alliance. Editor Smith is in receipt of the following letter from Governor Frank B. Willis, which explains itself:

STATE OF OHIO
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Columbus, O., April 8, 1915.

Hon. Harry C. Smith,
Editor of "The Gazette,"
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Friend:—

Upon receipt of your wire I replied at once. No doubt information has reached you before this as to the action of the State Board of Film Censors. As soon as I heard from you I got in touch with the President of the board. Upon further consideration the Board adopted a resolution rescinding the certificate which had been issued for the very objectionable film, "The Nigger." Notification was sent to the Fox Film Corporation at Cleveland, Cincinnati and New York. Also the authorities at Cleveland were notified

Trusting this prompt action met with your approval, Iam

Yours very truly,
FRANK B. WILLIS.

Governor Willis was a member of the Ohio Legislature in 1900 and 1901 when Editor Smith was serving his third term as a member of that body, and they have been good friends ever since.

The New York Age
April 15, 1915

NEGROES RIOT AT THEATRE

Police Charge Mob in Broad Street and Break Many Heads.

When a mob of more than 500 negroes made several demonstratous last night in front of the Forrest The to break up a moving-picture show, licemen under Captains Mills and T pest answered a riot call and char the crowd, making a number of rests and sending scores to nea hospitals with broken heads. The order was carried out on a prearranged plan and the crowds began to gathe along Broad street between City Hall and Walnut street about 8 o'clock.

Word had been sent to the Central Station that trouble was expected around the theatre and a force of 100 reserves from the three central districts south of Market street was ent to the scene. For more than an hour they kept the throngs of colored men in motion and broke up all attempts at speech-making. Then the leaders of the mob tried strategy that threw the police partly off their guard. The mob marched twice around the block in which the theatre is located and sent volleys of jeers and cat-calls at the reserves. They continued marching south on Broad street and at Lombard street dispersed as if to go home.

Thinking the disturbance ended, a greater part of the police guard was withdrawn, but shortly before 11 o'clock the crowd again assembled at Broad and Lombard streets and made a second march to the theatre. Rushing the police drawn up before the entrance the mob shattered the transom over the main door with bricks. City Hall specials and reserves were called and drove the crowd in a hurry back to Lombard street. Clubs and blackjacks were freely used by the police and the mob was forced to disperse.

The Polyclinic, Douglass, Hahnemann and Medico-Chirurgical Hospitals treated more than a hundred injured men for lacerations and bruises. Policemen Ferguson and Boyle, of the Fifth district, arrested Arthur Lunn, 19 years old, of No. 5747 Cherry street, and he was held under $500 bail for further hearing.

Phila. Eve. Public Ledger

11 September 1915

Negroes to Produce Own "Birth of a Nation"

It develops that the colored citizens who are not satisfied with the representations of their forefathers as shown in Griffith's spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," have decided to answer that production with one of their own in which the development of the race will be worked out in a dramatic scenario. The better element of the colored race have decided to spend no further time in protesting the Griffith production and are agreed that a fare more effective answer to the representations of the Griffith story can be secured by devoting all their attention to making their own picture a success. With this end in view, James Scott, private secretary to Booker T. Washington, has been in conference with Henry I. MacMahon, the Eastern representative of Thomas H. Ince, the celebrated motion picture director. An elaborate scenario has been worked out showing the early sufferings of the negro slaves, the trials they went through in the first years of their freedom and then showing the wonderful progress that enlightened colored citizens have made in the past half century. Griffith's film drama only shows the terrors of the reconstruction period, when the freedmen were just emerging from slavery. It is the purpose of the leaders of the colored population of the country to stand behind the new picture when it is completed and see that it secures the same widespread publicity and attention that has been devoted to the Griffith production.

"BIRTH OF A NATION" PRODUCED IN SOUTH

No Flurry Over Pictures Which Have Created Controversy Elsewhere

By a Staff Correspondent

ATLANTA, Ga., Oct. 18.—"The Birth of a Nation" has invaded the South, and contrary to general predictions there has not been a flurry, except at the box offices of the theatres where the pictures are being shown. While it had not been anticipated that the showing of the piece in Southern cities would lead to any conflict between the races, it had been suggested that some action be taken to prohibit the performances. The pictures so far have been shown in several large cities, including Richmond and Chattanooga, and have completed their run without the slightest friction, the censors allowing them to be produced without any changes.

This piece is faring better than the play, "The Clansman," on which it was founded. Thomas Dixon's play came South for its second season just after the riot in Atlanta, when vigorous steps were being taken to prevent any possibility of a recurrence of the scenes enacted here. "The Clansman" had extremely rough sailing after the riot throughout the South, being prohibited in a number of places.

The pictures, it is argued, have a distinct advantage over the play, in that the latter is purely propaganda, while the former bases its right to exist on the argument that it is history. The South quite naturally wants the country to know what she had to undergo in the days of the Reconstruction. It is not likely, however, that the pictures will pass all the boards of censorships without revision.

J. D. G.

COURT DISSOLVES ONE INJUNCTION IN FILM CASE

JUDGE HENNING SUSTAINS DEMURRER OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY SIDENER, BUT ORDER AGAINST POLICE STANDS. WILL BE HEARD WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15.

The injunction relative to "The Birth of A Nation" case came up Wednesday, in chambers before Judge Henning. The temporary restraining order against Prosecuting Attorney Howard Sidener was dissolved, but the order, restraining the police from interfering with the production, was continued in force and the question as to whether the police of the city of St. Louis will be prohibited from interfering will be determined at the hearing of the case on its merits next Wednesday, September 15.

The case is being handled by Associate City Counselor Davis, assisted by Attorneys Homer G. Phillips and George L. Vaughn, for the colored people.

PETITION GOV. WHITMAN

Leading Citizens to Demand That "Clansman" Be Stopped by Executive Action.

A petition among the colored people of this city to Governor Whitman is being circulated protesting against "The Birth of a Nation," which is still running in this city. The petition is for a thousand names, and already some of the leading men and women of the race in this city have signed the petition. It is hoped that before next week a thousand or more names will be attached to the petition, voicing a united protest against this vicious "Clansman," which has created such a disturbance in this and other cities. The petition has met the general approval of the leading citizens and at the Interdenominational Meeting of Ministers at St. Mark's M. E. Church last Monday afternoon every minister present signed the petition. Among the leading citizens that have signed the petition are: Dr. W. H. Brooks, Dr. E. P. Roberts, J. C. Thomas, Dr. B. W. Arnett, Mrs. Daisy Tapley, Miss Minnie Brown, Rev. Dr Chas. Martin, Thomas J. Bell, Dr. W. P. Hayes, Miss Pearle Woodson of the New York News, Henry C. Parker and many others.

A THREE WEEKS' RUN.

"The Birth of a Nation" is to be presented for its third consecutive week at the Atlanta theater—an unusual record, but one which is fully justified by the striking novelty of the presentation.

Announcement is made that this attraction will be carried throughout this week, and that Monday's matinee will be given as a benefit in honor of the Atlanta chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy.

It is particularly appropriate that this historic organization should profit by an exhibit which tends to teach and preserve the truth of history regarding the civil war, so that generations tracing back to confederate lineage shall go forward in the building of the united nation, proud of the south's bearing in the tragic events which gave a whole country a new birth.

This attraction has had a remarkable run in Atlanta and The Constitution does not hesitate to say that it has fully justified the liberal patronage that has been bestowed upon it.

NEW YORK OUTLOOK

APR 1 1915

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Criticism of moving pictures comes perhaps more properly within the field of a weekly journal than criticism of the "legitimate stage." The acted play, whatever its literary merits, may not live to pass beyond the dramatic confines of the metropolis. The "movie" drama, whatever its defects, will not improbably reach every city, if not every town, in the country. Of the great feature films costing thousands of dollars, advertised more extensively than any all-star play of the past, this is particularly true.

Such a film is "The Birth of a Nation," a drama of the Reconstruction period based upon the writings of the Rev. Thomas Dixon. In interest and technical mastery of the moving-picture art this film is one of the best yet produced by a modern director. Apparently neither expense nor time has been spared in preparing for the screen the story of the Civil War and the unhappy period which followed. The opportunity, indeed, was one that would have been the delight of any great and careful novelist, and one which would have taxed the knowledge of a great historian. Unhappily for the value of "The Birth of a Nation," Mr. Dixon is neither.

The story of "The Birth of a Nation," as Mr. Dixon sees it, is briefly this: Slavery is brought to the South by the traders of New England. Under slavery the Negroes are happy, working, as we are told in large letters, only from six in the morning to six at night, with two hours off in the middle of the day. The spirit of abolition grows in the North and the spirit of secession in the South. The war comes. Lincoln, Grant, Lee, the burning of Atlanta, Gettysburg and Appomattox, are passed in august review upon the screen. The North triumphs. Lincoln is killed, and the radical element in his party, led by a Congressman with a Negro mistress, adopts a policy of reconstruction involving social as well as political intercourse between the black and white races. Reconstruction means Negro domination of the white civilization of the South. Confronting this menace the Kuklux Klan springs into being, marshaled in legions that never were, and redeems the South from destruction.

The difficulty with Mr. Dixon as a purveyor of history is that he is not a historian. A historian not only presents true incidents from the past, but, if he is fair-minded and impartial, takes care that the incidents are representative and typical. Many of the most effective and most misleading scenes in "The Birth of a Nation" doubtless occurred some time, somewhere, in the South. Chosen as the whole picture of the Reconstruction period, however, they are unfair and vicious. Mr. Dixon has "a single-track mind," and the track leads only through a very unpleasant country. He is a partisan, and a dangerous one. He can see questions only in broad splotches of black and white. He knows but one side of Southern life, the sex problem of "Aryan and African."

As Mr. Dixon rightly believes and dramatically shows, the American Nation was born from the travail of civil war and the injustice of the Reconstruction period, and therefore his photo drama threatens no reopening of the wounds of the white North and the white South. The evil in "The Birth of a Nation" lies in the fact that the play is both a denial of the power of development within the free Negro and an exaltation of race war.

It would be difficult, indeed, to paint in colors dark enough the shame of the Reconstruction period. To say this is not to excuse the offense of a writer who distorts this shame and labels the blurred picture—"history."

ASK MAYOR TO HAVE MOVING PICTURE OF "THE NIGGER" STOPPED

A delegation, said to represent the colored population of Schenectady—about 600 people—appeared at the office of the mayor this morning with a request that he use his influence to secure the suppression of a motion picture advertised for today and Tuesday at Proctor's Theatre. This picture is "The Nigger," a dramatization of a story of the reconstruction period, written by Thomas Dixon, Jr. The mayor's secretary got in touch with the management of Proctor's and secured the latter's promise to take the picture off the bill after this afternoon, if given sufficient time to wire for another picture.

The picture will go on at the matinee performance today in an expurgated state. Manager Goulding of the theatre states that the picture could not offend except the super-sensitive, and then in but one or two scenes and these will be eliminated without marring the picture this afternoon. The title of the picture is the thing which causes trouble for it wherever it appears. The delegates waiting on the mayor today said that the advertising posters exhibited by the theatre management were very humiliating, even after eliminating the question of race prejuice. The entire objection to the picture has been the alleged danger of inducing ill feeling between the white and colored races wherever shown.

ANTI-NEGRO FILM STILL HAS OBJECTIONABLE PARTS

"Birth of a Nation" Owners Fail to Eliminate Two Scenes.

Despite their alleged promise to Mayor Mitchel, producers of "The Birth of a Nation" motion picture film are declared to have failed to elimnate the several scenes over which a wave of objection has been raised. Miss Mae Nerney, chairman of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, declared yesterday that because of this discover the injunction suit started some time ago and postponed five times would probably be pushed through.

Representatives of the association witnessed the play Saturday, and to their amazement noted that the play was in virtually its original objectionable form. About a week ago the film men volunteered a promise to Mayor Mitchel, according to the latter's statement, that they would remove two scenes in the second act picturing colored men in vicious advances on white women.

The association censors declare that other changes have been made, but that these two scenes remain. It had been thought that if the film was really relieved of the objectionable elements, the suit would be dropped. It is now planned to have watchers present at presentation of the film during the next few days, and if it remains unchanged, to prosecute the suit. The latter as set for trial at the Jefferson Market Police Court at 10:30 a.m. Thursday.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

Kansas Rejects the "Birth of Nation"

Chicago Defender 1/29/15

Those Who Wish to See Film Will Have to Go Outside State. Censor Board Rejects Appeal. Insists Picture Tends to Show South Right and North Wrong

Topeka, Kansas, Jan. 28.—Sunday the Birth of the Nation was shown in private to Mr. W. D. Ross, the state superintendent of public instruction and state movie censor, and Monday he rejected the whole affair. Monday afternoon the appeal board, consisting of Gov. Capper, Attorney-General S. M. Brewster and Secretary of State J. T. Botkin, sustained the state censor after hearing the arguments of H. A. Sherman, manager of the film company.

Kansasans who wish to see the film will have to go outside the state, unless the courts step in and block the move for justice and right.

Movie Censor Ross in rejecting the film issued the following statement: The picture is rejected because it is improper, it is NOT instructive and from its false title through its tissue of misrepresentations of the north and the Negro race and our country's history to the final culminating travesty, which pictures peace on earth, good will to men as the outcome of passion, of hate and murder, it is vicious and immoral—immoral not alone from the parts that are sexually suggestive, but in its whole revelation of race prejudice and sectional bitterness.

PICTURE IS IMPROPER

Following the action of the appeal board Manager Sherman announced that he would take the matter to the courts, get an injunction some time between now and the time that the reel is scheduled to be shown in this state.

He professed himself surprised, shocked, pained inexpressibly at the action of the board. The film is elevating, an accurate historical representation, that is conductive to a higher regard for the black man by the white, he said, and produced a decision from a district court judge in Colorado to prove it.

Protests have been coming to Ross' office and to the governor's office ever since it was known that the film was coming to Kansas. Yesterday morning C. A. Meek, commander-in-chief of the Kansas G. A. R., called in person on Governor Capper and protested, in the name of the old soldiers, against allowing the false impression created by the picture to be spread over the state, even among the "two dollar a seat" crowd. It was to have been shown only in Topeka, Wichita, Hutchinson, Leavenworth and Atchison, Sherman said.

G. A. R. FILES A PROTEST

The way the old soldiers look at it, the film may be a marvelous production, a gripping appeal to the senses and all that is artistic, but it makes out that the North was all wrong and the South right in the Civil war. It holds up the Ku Klux Klan as knight errants protecting the helpless. The veterans regard the K. K. K. as something on the order of the "Night Riders" and other lawless organizations. The picture also holds up Thaddeus Stevens as a debauchee, a moral pervert whose illicit passion for a colored woman brought on the Civil war. So the veterans are not strong for a picture which they regard as an attempt to justify secession, rebellion and the Ku Klux Klan. Incidentally, while the play is declared to be historically accurate, it has Stevens carrying on his amours with the Negress several years after the statesman was dead and buried.

COWARDLY AND DASTARDLY

Commander Meek filed with the appeal board the following statement from the last issue of the National Tribune of Washington, D. C., official organ of the G. A. R., giving the reasons why the Civil war veterans are opposed to the picture:

We have hitherto omitted to give notice of that meretricious production, "The Clansman" and "The Birth of a Nation," based upon it. Both are so vile in spirit and treatment that it seemed that the people of the country would treat them with deserved contempt, and they would fail for want of patronage.

The book, "The Clansman," had only a limited sale, among the unreconstructed worshipers of the Lost Cause, but "The Birth of a Nation," based upon it, has grown to be a public insult and nuisance.

The whole Ku Klux Klan idea was cowardly and venomous to the last degree, and it is a wonder that the good sense of the good people of the South endured its degrading nonsense as long as they did. With all the contempt that the southerners pretend for the race, with the lack of ability, world-knowledge and force of character, which has been attributed to the down-trodden race, yet the southerners would make out an exalted heroism, in a war upon a race which was everywhere inferior in numbers to them, and still more, inferior in social position and education. It was cowardly, because it was those who boasted their superiority, descending to sneaking midnight raids upon the humble huts of poor freed men, frightening and even killing them.

There never was a redeeming feature about the whole disgraceful Ku Klux Klan system.

Owing to shrewd management and much artistic ability, "The Birth of a Nation" has gained a wide publicity in the North, and its exhibitions are attended by immense crowds. In plain words, it is as vile and treacherous, as poisonous to the minds of the rising generation as anything can be. It degrades the sacred war for the Union and the exalted courage of the men who fought to save the nation, into a shameful lust of conquest, with only the most debased of mankind engaging in it. There have been protests from the Grand Army and other patriotic organizations in cities where "The Birth of a Nation" has been exhibited, but these have not been as strong nor as many as the degenerate, mind-poisoning exhibition should have aroused.

Now, at last, decisive action has been taken. The patriotic sentiment of the grand old state of Ohio was so shocked by its slanders and willful lying as to the Union cause that the board of censors prohibited its exhibition in the good old Buckeye state.

The managers, who are coining money out of this, appealed from the decision of the board of censors, and Attorney General Turner, to whom the appeal was made, has upheld the action of the board of censors in a ringing opinion that will meet a warm echo in the hearts of every loyal and public-spirited man and woman in the country.

The film has been rejected in Ohio, was considerably deleted in Boston and in Pennsylvania, shown in Denver only after a court injunction was obtained and in that injunction the judge stated in his opinion that if there had been any feeling of race hatred in a community the authorities would be fully justified in prohibiting its being shown.

MAKES SHERMAN LOOK FOOLISH

At the hearing Monday afternoon Sherman was grilled by S. M. Brewster, attorney general. SHERMAN STATED THAT ROSS WAS THE FIRST LIVING MAN THAT EVER QUESTIONED THE HISTORICAL ACCURACY OF THE FILM. Brewster called attention to the misrepresentation of Thaddeus Stevens, and several other points that Sherman admitted he did not know ever had appeared in any historical records. Then he admitted that an extra hundred feet of film had been made, portraying the wonderful advance the Negro has made since the war.

"WHY WAS THAT EXTRA FILM NECESSARY, IF THE FILM ITSELF ISN'T PREJUDICIAL TO THE BLACK RACE?" ASKED BREWSTER. "WHAT WAS ITS PURPOSE?"

Sherman saw the pitfall he had dug for himself, and hastened to explain that he didn't think any such additional film was necessary. In fact, he said, he didn't carry that extra film at all. It had been prepared, but he considered the main film so favorable to the Negro that he didn't see any reason for tacking eulogy on the end of it to counteract any prejudicial effect it might have.

"I even understand," added Sherman, eyeing Brewster slantwise, "that Booker T. Washington himself has cordially indorsed 'The Birth of a Nation.'"

Brewster looked at him a moment in silence, knowing Sherman had lied, and asked no more questions.

Attorney General Turner's opinion is so apt and just that we reproduce it almost entire:

UPHOLDS CENSOR BOARD

"After viewing the photoplay, entitled 'The Birth of a Nation,' I am firmly of the opinion that the board of censors did right in not permitting this picture to be shown in Ohio.

"Over and above the treatment of the Negro, the picture is an insult to the North and a contemptible distortion of well-known history regarding the Civil war. The proper title of this picture should be 'An Insult to a Nation.'

"IN THE FACE OF THE INDISPUTABLE FACT THAT THE MULATTO IS THE PRODUCT OF THE SOUTH ALONE, THE AUTHOR OF THIS PICTURE HAS DARED TO ATTEMPT TO ATTRIBUTE THE ACTION OF THE LEADERS OF THE NORTH TO THE INFLUENCE OF LIAISON WITH NEGRO WOMEN.

"Typifying a confressional leader, preceding, during and after the Civil war as a low, coarse, vindictive Negro worshiping advocate of mixed marriages having as a mistress a mulatto who wields an influence sufficient to justify the subtitle, 'A Great Leader's Weakness That Is to Blight a Nation.' This immediately precedes Lincoln's call for volunteers. That there may be no mistakes as to who is meant by this coarse caricature, they pick out a cripple to unmistakably denote Thaddeus Stevens. For fear that some one might not understand, there is thrown upon a screen a sub-title that 'The executive mansion of the nation was transferred to this man's residence.'

"After glorifying the rebel flag and the flag of South Carolina, the author dresses a horde of the lowest type of bad land Negroes in the uniform of Union soldiers and causes them to enact scenes similar to those of General Early's army at Chambersburg, Pa. Not satisfied with even this, the author labels Union officers as 'scalawag white captains.'

FLING AT SHERMAN

"A fling is taken at General Sherman's memory in the marauding scenes under the titles of 'While the women and children weep a great conqueror marches to the sea and 'The torch of war against the breast of Atlanta.'

"General Grant, the man who, according to fact and real history, sent 25,000 rations to General Lee's men and allowed those men to ride their horses and mules homes so as to be able to cultivate the soil; the soldier whose terms of surrender had been so generous as to evoke from General Lee the statement, 'This will have a very happy effect on my men;' the man who did not even wait to witness the formal surrender of the troops, this hero, not only of the Northland, but of the entire world, is pictured with a stogie-like cigar in his mouth tilted at the angle chosen by cartoonists to represent Uncle Joe Cannon, and with his hand jammed down in his pants pocket, is made to swagger over in front of General Lee, who remains the personification of dignity.

"Time after time the North is unfavorably contrasted against the South. A fair daughter of the North is wooed by a gallant son of the South, who has but two competitors for her affections, one a leering lout dressed slouchily in Union blue, the other a Negro.

MISREPRESENTS RACE

"Insult after insult is heaped upon the soldier's uniform made sacred by the boys in blue. Notwithstanding the historical fact that the Negroes were the protectors of the white women and children of the South during the dark days of the Civil war and that no ravishment of white women by blacks during that period is recorded, a Union officer's uniform of blue is placed upon the lowest type of Negro imaginable, and he is made to pursue a little white girl, who jumps from a cliff to her death, and there is then flashed upon the screen. 'For her who had learned the stern lesson of honor we should not grieve that she has found sweeter the opal gates of death.'

"A race's lust for white women rather than the white man's lust to regain lost power is made the justification for that orgnaziation well known in history as the Ku Klux Klan. And what all history, including the reports of the courts, say was a band of outlaws, is made an organization of heroes under religious rights. Brush up your history and imagine if you can the Ku Klux Klan giving birth to this nation.

"Among this mass of false and distorted history there was flashed upon the screen the reason for the picture and the books which preceded it. 'Bitter memories will not allow the poor bruised heart of the South to forget.'

INDORSED ONLY BY REBELS

"After viewing the picture I read the brief of attorneys for the corporation therein, purported indorsements of the 'Insult to a Nation,' and found quoted therein purported indorsements of the picture by Claude Kitchin, L. P. Padgett, R. N. Page and other sons of the South who are now prominent in Congress. In addition there is quoted therein a long eulogy of the picture by a state commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In his indorsement of the picture this commander says: 'The Sons of Confederate Veterans today are working along two lines—first, to see that the Southern side of the controversy which led to the Civil war is correctly stated in history, which will demonstrate to the world that we are not sons of rebels, but sons of patriots.'

"We of the North are asked to forget, yet at the same time, insulting our heroes and our cause, the promoters of this picture are asking the youth of the North to accept in this picture manufactured history. In this brief there is quoted letters purporting to come from children of this state, who had been shown this picture through the efforts of a man blinded by partisan politics. These letters show that these children are accepting the incidents of this picture as real history.

"This picture shows the South to have been right and the North to have been wrong. Our fathers settled that controversy in the arbitrament of arms, and no good can come from an attempt to reopen the question or distort its history.

"This picture is neither of a moral, educational, amusing nor harmless character and the statute (Sec. 871-49 G. C.) specifically provides that only such films as are either of a moral, educational or amusing and harmless character may be passed by the Ohio board of censors."

WORK FOR THE CENSORS

FOR the breeding of vicious race prejudice in impulsive and sinister minds incapable of forming a balanced, comprehensive point of view, "The Birth of a Nation," a motion picture drama founded on Thomas Dixon's story, "The Clansman," is said to be most ingeniously put together. The race malignity which this author has sought to capitalize in his books has been amplified and emphasized in this play. All that is worst regarding the Negro race—and much more than belongs to the Negroes as a race—is "played up" to its most fetching degree. To the maddening accompaniment of hoochy-coochy music there is the long pursuit by a lust-maddened Negro of an innocent white girl, who finally flings herself to destruction from a precipice, carrying her honor with her "through the opal gates of death." All manner of vicious rot designed to create race prejudice between whites and blacks is set forth. By the same token, if an author were to bunch together all the meannesses—many of them unspeakable—which white men have inflicted on Negro men and women of the South, an equally as bad showing could be made for the "superior race." But would a play with the latter purpose be permitted a production in any American city? Certainly not. It is greatly to be doubted if the Negroes would if they could care to produce such a play. Is it because the white race is superior in numbers and power that it presents such works to prove to the world its higher attainments in civilization and culture? As a sample of Mr. Dixon's logic and integrity he says that his drama "is not meant to reflect in any way on any race or people of today." The audience while in the theatre is presumed to hiss and to hate the Negro and then step outside and respect him and his rights when it meets him in the street. The play, which is supposed to represent conditions during the "Ku Klux Klan" period after the war, has much to say about "sowing the wind." Seemingly that is the present purpose of the production, and the sooner the censors suppress it in the name of fair play, common decency and a humane citizenship that desires honestly to build up rather than viciously to tear down, the better it will be for all.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

[Notice to correspondents: Brief letters are preferred. Write on one side the paper only. Give full name and address for editor's information.]

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

Thomas Dixon's Rejoinder and Other Comments, Ending a Controversy.

[The Globe is obliged on account of space limitations to close the debate on the Griffith-Dixon film.]

Editor of The Globe, Sir—I accept the challenge of your editorial in Saturday's issue to answer the question, If Lincoln were here what would he think of a performance of "The Birth of a Nation"? This week is the anniversary of his assassination, an event which our play records with impressive power. In my judgment this scene is the most remarkable tragedy ever staged in the history of the drama.

To begin with, if Lincoln were here "The Birth of a Nation" could never have been written. There would have been no material for the reign of terror which the second act so faithfully records. There could have been no disfranchisement of whites and no wholesale enfranchisement of blacks.

We must not forget that Stevens, who became the dictator of the republic on the death of the president, hated Lincoln with fierce, consuming fury. When Lincoln fell the south was at the mercy of this strange, savage old man, whose iron mills Lee's army had burned at Chambersburg, Pa., and whose soul was still more embittered by his long association with his quadroon mistress and the ostracism he suffered on her account.

How deep the gulf which separated Stevens, the author of reconstruction, from Abraham Lincoln we can best judge by extracts from Lincoln's own words.

Our play opposes the marriage of blacks to whites. Lincoln says (page 102, "Letters and Addresses"): "Judge Douglas is especially horrified at the thought of the mixing of the blood of the white and black races. Agreed for once—a thousand times agreed! A separation of the races is the only perfect preventive of amalgamation. The enterprise is a difficult one, but where there is a will there is a way."

Again he says on the issue: "What next? Free them and make them politically and socially our equals? My own feelings will not admit this."

And with still more direct and vivid words: "I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and black races. I am not, nor ever have been, in favor of making voters or jurors of Negroes, nor of qualifying them to hold office, nor to intermarry with white people, and I will say in addition to this that there is a physical difference between the white and black races which, I believe, will forever forbid them living together on terms of social and political equality." (Page 121, "Letters and Addresses.")

How could the man who uttered those words approve to-day the attempt of a Negro intermarriage society to stop this great patriotic play?

Your statement that Lincoln held the Union indissoluble is a silly quibble. Who questions it? You mean to imply, of course, that "The Birth of a Nation" denies it! And yet the whole play rests squarely on the fact that Lincoln held it, the south denied it, and the civil war settled it in Lincoln's favor! We glorify his name for this reason.

In my historical note in the programme I say in so many words: "The north, under the leadership of Abraham Lincoln, held that the Union was indestructible and its sovereignty supreme."

And yet you say, "Abraham Lincoln would not have much respect for the historical conclusions of Thomas Dixon!"

He certainly could have no respect for the historical information of the writer of that editorial. I have studied the life of Lincoln for more than twenty years. Your editorial reads as if it were written by a good Methodist exhorter.

Again you set up a man of straw, all your own, and proceed to knock him down. You intimate that "The Birth of a Nation" teaches that slavery was introduced into the south by greedy Yankee skippers and that the abolition movement was born of northern hypocrisy and jealousy—no such idea is conveyed in the play anywhere from start to finish. Where did you get it? Have you seen the play?

Again you repeat the cheap campaign lie of 1868 which declared that the south was trying to re-enslave the Negro. I challenge you to make good this assertion with a single fact of history.

You say, "Whether he would have supported the flat enfranchisement of the Negro we do not know." Of course you do not know. You show it in every line! I know, and prove my position by the words from Lincoln's lips quoted above and the further sentence from his famous letter to Governor Hahn of Louisiana on this issue. "You are about to have a convention," he writes, "which, among other things, will probably define the elective franchise. I barely suggest for your private consideration whether some of the colored people may not be let in—as, for instance, the very intelligent, and especially those who have fought gallantly in our ranks."

If you had ever read this letter, written March 13, 1864, you certainly could not doubt his attitude toward the flat enfranchisement of a million ignorant slaves and at the same time the disfranchisement of their masters, whose fathers had created this republic!

You indulge in some fine generalities in denouncing Mr. Griffith and myself for raising the issue of the marriage of blacks to whites and refer to Lincoln as our antagonist! I challenge you to quote all of Lincoln's words on this point in his debate with Douglas. I've only taken a few sentences. I suggest that it's a good time to set your readers right on this point! Give the paragraphs in full. I can stand it if you can.

You intimate that we eulogize Lincoln and then attack the great ideas for which he stood. You haven't shown it. Abraham Lincoln never believed that the Negro could be assimilated into our social or political life. With his Proclamation of Emancipation he coupled his plan for their colonization and asked for millions of dollars to begin it. With every message he sent to congress on the subject of the Negro he repeated this demand to the hour of his death.

In his appeal to the border states for gradual compensated emancipation he said, "room in South America for colonization can be obtained cheaply and in abundance."

When congress had passed his bill for the colonization of the black race and appropriated millions for its working he sent for a number of representative Negroes to hear his message and deliver it to their people:

"It is better for us both, therefore," he said, "to be separated. The colony in Liberia is an old one, is in a sense a success and it is open to you. I am arranging to open another in Central America. If you will engage in the enterprise I will spend some of the money entrusted to me. I ask you to consider it seriously, not for yourselves merely, nor for your race and ours for the present time, but for the good of mankind!"

On the day he died Abraham Lincoln had General Butler at work on his plan to gradually colonize all the Negroes, remove immediately every black soldier to Central America, and set them at work on the Panama Canal.

Thaddeus Stevens could have passed his reconstruction measures only over the dead body of Abraham Lincoln. This tremendous fact has been forgotten. It's time our children knew the truth about our history. This is one good reason why every boy and girl in America should see "The Birth of a Nation" and why they are going to see it!

THOMAS DIXON.

New York, April 11.

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Editor of The Globe, Sir— . . . I protest against the "Birth of a Nation" as vigorously as my neighbor. I find it's historically false, untrue to life, bad art, melodramatic, meretricious, caddish, dull, exaggerated as drama, and, compared to "Cabiria," spectacularly imitative and inferior. (Many of its individual scenes are very lovely, of course, and its atmosphere is preserved throughout.)

But I would not suppress it just because it does not happen to suit my taste or morals. I would try to extend my taste and morals to as many people as possible in the hope that next year a production of this sort will be ethically and aesthetically out of fashion. Melodrama on the stage has vanished, why not melodrama in the movies? . . .

INEZ MILHOLLAND BOISSEVAIN.

Harmon, N. Y., April 9.

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Editor of The Globe, Sir— . . . Not satisfied with what I read about Mr. Dixon's photo-play, and desiring to be just in my judgment, I went to see it and have tried to judge it impartially. If it ended with the first act, there would be but little to criticize adversely, although the evident leaning toward the southern point of view, and the gross injustice to the memory of that great commoner, Thaddeus Stevens—who with all his faults was probably the truest Democrat that ever lived—are very pronounced. During the whole course of the civil war it was always known where Stevens would be found—on the side of liberty and union, and opposed to slavery and disunion. That was a distinction in those days that must have been dear to the heart of Lincoln.

But it is in the last act that violence is done to historical accuracy, to the several character of the colored race, for of all the races on the earth they take the lead for patience and long suffering under great provocation—and to the character of several great leaders of the period treated, especially of the great senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner. The only way to judge a production like this, as to its effect upon members of the colored race, is to try to put yourself in their place and then say how you would like it. . . .

ISAAC ROBERTS.

New York, April 10.

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Editor of The Globe, Sir—The last sentence of your Saturday editorial on Lincoln concisely summed up the condition which makes possible such things as "The Birth of a Nation." Negroes don't wish to marry white women, and any Negro who does so is ostracized. And I don't think that white women are so eager to marry Negroes that laws have to be passed to keep them from it. Then why such laws? The answer is in your editorial—"A general desire to be unjust to the Negro and to get an excuse for the injustice." AUBREY BOWSER.

New York, April 11.

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Editor of The Globe, Sir—I am glad to see that you possess the virtue of expressing your convictions publicly when you see the necessity. I am glad, too, to see you do it so courageously and so fairly. The "Birth of a Nation" depicts a most regrettable period of our national life, and one that might well be allowed to remain in oblivion, even though its present pictorial representations had excluded all references to the colored race. Armed conflicts such as that of 1861-65 and such as the awful series now proceeding are an eternal disgrace and damnation to the human race, and the less familiar we are made with the incarnated vices of mankind the better for our mental and spiritual health. We have no need whatever, either from a historic or a moral point of view, for the visualization of horrors. . . .

New York, April 9. T. E. W.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

The Biggest Film Show

In viewing the greatest of all film shows, "The Birth of a Nation," one notes that in one or two particulars such shows can be much improved. The movement of the reels is too fast, and where there is much action there is too much, as where *Stoneman's* daughter struggles with the villain, *Lynch*. So with the mob scenes, the rapid motion of the film makes of confusion simply a blur. Something must be done, too, to ease off the suddenness of the passage of one scene into another and the occasional superposition of picture upon picture. The battle scenes, the broad sweep of the view of the march to the sea and the gathering of the Ku Klux Klan are most impressive in their realism, though the scene in Ford's Theater on the night of Lincoln's assassination is a "let down" from realism, as it must be, for the reason that it had to be patched up from old pictures none too clear in detail. The moving picture, however, is such a new thing in the world, it is hypercritical to make too much of such defects as are pointed out here. In the rapid improvement of the mechanics of presentation, these things must disappear. The most captious observer of a performance like "The Birth of a Nation" must acknowledge that his criticism is lost in wonder and in pleasure. As for the politics of the piece, it is interesting only as one of "the old, unhappy, far-off things." Its bearings upon the race question to-day are easily exaggerated. The country pretty well understands that the race question is to the South anything but an academic question to be settled by arguments in the abstract. It is a matter surcharged with passion and, in action, that passion shows itself in savage ways. "The Birth of a Nation" films fall short of things we can read in the papers any day. And nothing in the piece makes anyone forget that there are a world of upright, clean, decent negroes who bear themselves not only without offense, but in a manner to command respect, to say nothing of a sort of affection, commoner to Southerners than to Northerners, but with no intimation of social equality. There will be greater film dramas, for as drama, this is pretty "rotten," but as an earnest of such greater things to come, "The Birth of a Nation" is a performance no intelligent person should fail to see, even if it is history with a "slant" against the supreme decision of fifty years ago for those at Gettysburg "who saw the future come on through the fight's delirium," "who held the hope of nations on that slippery slope amid the cheers of Christendom."

10

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

Another Protest Against It as a Slander Upon the American Negro

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—The Armstrong Association of Philadelphia wishes to enter its protest against the production of "The Birth of a Nation," which at the present time is being held in this city. In every city in which it has been held there has been objection to it on the part of some white people and of the best element among the colored people, because the tendency of some parts of the play is to create ill feeling against their race—a race which can less easily withstand hatred and dislike than any other of our American groups.

"The Birth of a Nation" is more objectionable than the Irish plays of Lady Gregory, to which the Irish people so much objected, because, while they pretended to represent the peculiar characteristics of elements of the Irish people, this pretends to represent the whole negro race in this country.

"The Birth of a Nation" is in many important particulars misleading. The evils of slavery are ignored and its happiness is magnified. The difficulties of reconstruction are overlooked, and all its defects and mistakes are emphasized. The worst fault of the production, however, and the cause of this protest, is the unfriendly treatment of the negro. Indeed, Mr. Dixon's books seem written for the express purpose of awaking antagonism against this race. While the photoplay is very much less hostile to the colored people than the book on which it is based, nevertheless it is clearly calculated to produce ill feeling toward the negroes. Thoughtless people are taught to look on the colored people simply as perils to the whites, and there is lack of sympathy with a backward race, confronting difficult problems, and no adequate representation of the part that selfish white men played in exploiting this people.

For a while moving-picture films were thrown on the screen at the end of the photoplay showing the excellent work that negroes are doing at Hampton Institute, Virginia. These, however, are a poor substitute for a play which is fair and has a kindly spirit. It was very difficult to receive the Hampton pictures with good feeling and appreciation after having had only bad and unfortunate traits brought forward through most of the play. The Hampton pictures have been in some recent performances omitted, possibly because with such an unfavorable preparation it was difficult for them to be well received.

In Providence, R. I., and Gary, Ind., the exhibition of this photoplay was prohibited. In St. Louis the police department decided against it. In Tacoma, Wash., the City Councils passed an ordinance against any play "which tends to incite race riot or race hatred, or shall represent or purport to represent any hanging, lynching, burning or placing in a position of ignominy of any human being incited by race hatred." It is unfortunate that in Philadelphia the court should have issued an injunction restraining the order of the Director of Public Safety to have the play stopped.

CARL E. GRAMMER,
President.
JOHN T. EMLEN,
Secretary Armstrong Association.

Philadelphia, October 9, 1915.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Its Press Representative Makes Reply to Two Recent Condemnatory Letters

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—In the PUBLIC LEDGER of September 9 two letters are published attacking our production, "The Birth of a Nation." One signed "A Reader" makes the untruthful statement that we are charging 25 cents for the picture in California and $2 for it in Philadelphia. Our prices in California when we presented the picture there ranged from 25 cents to $1.50. The Philadelphia prices are the same as these, except that we charge $2 for the loge seats at the night performances. These have been sold out at every performance so far. The remainder of this letter is a personal opinion of the man who wrote it. Against his jaundiced criticism we willingly stand upon the approval of 2,000,000 patrons of the production who have made it the greatest piece of property on the American stage.

Your other letter, by "M. W.," of Darling, Pa., is more interesting because of its antecedents. We have been reading this familiar style of wail for so many months we can smell it 90 miles off. The only surprise is that the great PUBLIC LEDGER pays any attention to a letter from a contributor who admits he is sure a thing is developing hatred and prejudice in him. In this connection, I believe, "M. W." makes use of that familiar phrase, "Christian forbearance." The two do not jibe very well. The whole tone of this letter has a familiar sound. It is part of the propaganda put forth by the intermarriage crowd, which began last March in New York. They have been distributing this stuff through the country ever since. They are so impoverished of truths and cleverness, however, that they are unable to conceal the taint of propaganda that sticks to all of it.

THEODORE MITCHELL,
General Press Representative.

Philadelphia, September 10, 1915.

AFTER THE DECISION

We assume that those who are warning the colored leaders and their followers in this city not to go outside of the law and outside of good citizenship in their opposition to "The Birth of a Nation" are doing something superfluous. We assume that 99 per cent. of the colored citizens of Boston have respect for the law and would not vent their disappointment by illegal and disorderly proceedings. Moreover, if they should do so, they would forfeit immediately the good will of many who have appreciated their sentiments in this matter without being able fully to share them.

The decision concerning a continuance of the play which has offended a large number of the colored citizens of Boston has been made by a commission that never would have been substituted for the recent municipal censorship had it not been for the remarkable demonstration against Mr. Griffith's photoplay. A commission of three was created, it was created according to the desires of those who demanded a change, and the stipulation that a decision should be reached by a majority vote was inserted against the wishes of the amusement-promoting interests. The commission has unanimously decided that "The Birth of a Nation" should not be prohibited in Boston.

To attempt to override that decision by resort

Misleading Photo Plays.

A filmed production entitled "Birth of a Nation" is denounced in cities where it has been seen as distorting history, unjust and offensive to many people and calculated to arouse race hatred. It may yet become as needful, as a matter of public policy, to prohibit such exhibitions as it was t put the ban on prize ring comba reproduced on films.

The moving picture is an ed tional agency of vast potential but it is equally potent to work harm. Demoralizing shows or are properly censored from tain, but there are other which harm may be wrought. veracious presentation of a histo incident would be one such; and story, if true to fact, of the Spanish inquisition, let us say, or other old, unhappy far off epiode, would only inflame prejudices to no good end.

The mass of people who frequent photo-theaters carry away a more vivid and enduring impression from an alleged portrayal of a historical occurrence than they would be likely to get from a whole library of books. It is highly important therefore that the five cent film show should be required, where it undertakes to deal with history, not to mislead opinion or malign historical figures, but to conform as closely as practicable to truth and fact.

LEGISLATORS SEE FILM PLAY

Private Performance Includes

Scenes Cut Out in Response to Protests.

Practically the whole State House went to the Tremont Theatre yesterday morning to witness a special private performance of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," by invitation of the theatre management.

Because the widespread protest against the play has resulted in a demand for legislation to prohibit the production of this and similar plays, the invitation was issued to the members of the Legislature, in order that they might see the play to be guided in passing upon the proposed legislation.

Neither Gov. Walsh nor anyone from his office was at the performance, and President Coolidge of the Senate and Speaker Cox of the House were also among the absentees.

One of the features of the special performance was the showing of the scenes which have been cut out of the film by orders of Mayor Curley and Judge Dowd.

The performance was a quiet one without accident. Legislators were chary about expressing an opinion about the show, many praising its artistic quality and general interest, some holding the opinion that it produces a psychological impression of dislike against the Negro.

NEGROES ACCUSE POLICE OF BEATING THEM

William M. Trotter and the Rev. Aaron Puller, who, with others, were arrested during the disturbances at the Tremont Theatre on the night of April 17, testified at their trial yesterday that they were beaten by patrolmen.

Puller said that after the man at the ticket office told him "Nothing doing," he went to the sidewalk at the request of Sergt. King to tell the Negroes there were no seats. There, he declared, on hearing from a woman that a patrolman had struck her, he tried to get the policeman's number, when another patrolman knocked him down. Five patrolmen took him to the station, two holding him by the throat and another by the back of the neck.

Trotter said he was struck in the jaw by a man in citizen's clothes who he afterward was told was Patrolman Dennis Harrington. He said he demanded the arrest of the patrolman, but denied kicking a policeman. The case may end today.

LABOR AND MOVIE MEN TO OPPOSE CARSTENS BILL

Motion picture men and labor men will appear at the State House tomorrow to oppose the Carstens bill for film censorship. The bill would establish a board of three to be appointed by the state boards of labor and industries, which should have sole authority over the production of photo-plays in Massachusetts.

The opponents say the measure would give the censors a dangerous degree of power. As part of the campaign against it slides have been thrown on the screens in pictures houses throughout the state urging the public to use its efforts to defeat it.

Boston Journal

"BIRTH OF NATION" PROTESTED AGAIN

Opinion Club Sends Resolutions to Mayor From Faneuil Hall.

Faneuil Hall was taxed to its capacity yesterday afternoon at a public meeting held under the auspices of the New Public Opinion Club to commemorate the semi-centennial observation of Memorial day and the fiftieth anniversary of negro freedom.

Dr. W. E. B. Dubois was the principal speaker, taking as his subject, "The Outlook for the Future." At the conclusion of Dr. Dubois' address it was voted to send to Mayor James F. Curley this resolution, adopted by a rising vote:

"Colored Americans assembled under the auspices of the New Public Opinion Club, on Memorial Sunday, to be addressed by Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, on 'Fifty Years of Negro Freedom,' in Faneuil Hall, sacred edifice which, as Boston's mayor rightly says, has ever stood against prejudice, contempt, injustice, enslavement of race, petitions the Boston Censor Board to stop the photo-play, 'Birth of a Nation,' which teaches hace prejudice, racial injustice, racial disfranchisement against colored Americans, falsifying reconstruction.

"From Faneuil Hall itself, we protest the proposition that the pictured slander and disparagement of a minority race shall make public licensed amusement for the rest of the people. This is but a step from that brutal tyranny when men were slaughtered to make a Roman holiday."

The meeting was presided over by President F. B. Washington, and on the platform with Dr. Dubois were these officers of the club: Vice President Miss Crystal Byrd of Boston Normal School, Secretary Nadine Wright, Radcliffe, 1917; Treasurer John Bowen, Rev. Osmond Walker, Harvard Divinity School; Miss Gertrude O'Neil of the Boston Conservatory of Music, Wesley Howard and Louria Jones.

Boston Herald

JUN 8 - 1915

ARREST NEGROES NEAR FILM PLAY

Police Take Eight on Loitering Charges During "Promenade" Protest.

A "promenade" protest against the photo-play "The Birth of a Nation," in front of the Tremont Theatre last night, resulted in eight Negroes being arrested on charges of sauntering, loitering and obstructing the sidewalk. In twos and fours, more than 100 of them marched back and forth along Tremont street, between Avery and Boylston streets. Several hundred other persons gathered across the street.

So serious did the situation appear at 8:15, that Supt. Crowley of the police department excused himself from a banquet and hurried down town. With a raincoat over his evening clothes he took charge and under his direction 50 patrolmen and four mounted policemen prevented gatherings in front of the theatre.

Instructed, the police say, by leaders who made their headquarters in Park square, and kept away from the bluecoats, the Negroes filed slowly in front of the theatre entrance as patrons passed to the corridors. They talked among themselves, but utterly ignored the patrolmen, who watched them every minute. The protest party appeared to be well informed on the breadth of the new "sauntering law," for after staying in the vicinity of the theatre for six minutes or thereabouts, they crossed to the Common and returned again after a short time.

Three Women Arrested

Eveland B. Washington, 26, of 76 Stirling street lingered more than the seven minutes of grace the new ordinance allows, according to the police. He was arrested and taken to the Lagrange street station. Soon after Sergt. Anderson arrested James H. Kingsley of 8 Trumbull street on a charge of obstructing the sidewalk. He is alleged to have stopped longer than the others in making a turn and several pedestrians are said to have had to go around him.

At short intervals afterwards, others in the protest parade were arrested on sauntering and loitering charges. They gave their names and addresses as: Jacob Johnson, 47 Hammond street; Augustus Granville, 53 Hammond street; Carl Pinn, 80 Gayhead street, Jamaica Plain; Miss Raven W. Jones, 338 Kennard street, Roxbury; Mrs. Estelle E. Hill, 309 Columbus avenue and Mrs. Jane W. Posey, an elderly widow of 65 Ruggles street.

Bail Commissioner Joseph A. Crawford, a Negro attorney, arrived at the Lagrange street station after the first arrests were made. Dr. John B. Hall of 60 Windsor street, Roxbury, a Negro physician went bondsman. The prisoners were released in bail of $100 each as quickly as they were booked.

Hearing that W. Monroe Trotter, editor of the Guardian, and Allen F. Whaley, another leader in the protest against the photo-play, were in Park square directing the "promenade protest," Supt. Crowley walked over there. When he reached Park square and Boylston street, Editor Trotter is said to have been saying good-night to several Negroes and urging them to be "on hand" tonight.

Crowley Warns Whaley.

Supt. Crowley found Mr. Whaley standing near the monument in Park square. "You and Mr. Trotter are responsible for those eight persons being arrested tonight," said the police superintendent. "You have been sending them over there to walk up and down and get arrested."

Mr. Whaley denied that he had advised any persons to march in front of the theatre, but admitted that he had talked with several who "went right over there." He was told by the superintendent that he had not better get mixed up in the affair. "You know you are in court Thursday on this affair already," said Supt. Crowley, "you wouldn't want to have to face additional charges."

Just before the theatre closed, Mayor Curley, Mrs. Curley and friends passed in front of the theatre in a limousine. The mayor reached his arm out of a window of the machine and waved to Supt. Crowley, who bowed in return. As the crowd poured out of the theatre, two of the mounted policemen rode their horses upon the Tremont street mall, forcing those who had gathered, hoping for excitement, to fall back to the Common. There was no disturbance, however.

There were half a dozen Negroes in the audience at the photo-play, but they were orderly. Twenty or more plain clothes men were seated in the balcony and floor. Two patrolmen were left on guard about the theatre all night.

Springfield Mass.

SHOW PHOTOPLAY IN WEST SPRINGFIELD

"The Birth of a Nation" to Be Produced All of Next Month.

PERMISSION GIVEN

Pastor of Local Church Thoroughly Disheartened at Project.

The photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," that had such a phenomenal run in Boston and which was denied entrance to many other cities because of its tendencies to cause racial trouble, will be shown in the West Springfield Town Hall through the entire month of Octozer. G. B. Miller, former owner of the Bijou Theater in Springfield, applied to the Selectmen at their meeting last evening for permission to run the picture in the Town Hall every afternoon and evening through the entire month. The Selectmen granted the permit, Mr. Miller agreeing to make arrangements with the School Department, which uses the hall for the high school pupils' assemblies, and to attend to the procuring of a permit from the State police for the use of the hall for that purpose.

Mr. Miller laid his plea before the School Department, which was in session last evening and members of the committee agreed to turn the hall over for his use in the afternoon for the first week in October. The rest of the time the show will run evenings only. There are three conflicting dates during the month, all for dances in the evening, and Mr. Miller stated last evening that he would try and make arrangements with the parties who have chartered the hall for those nights, whereby they may turn the hall over to him for the show. The Selectmen offered no objections to the exhibition of the picture here and the School Committee by its action of giving up the use of the hall for a week showed an atttitude of approval.

The hall is not licensed for theatricals or "movies," but Mr. Miller insisted that he could get the necessary permit from the State police to operate the motion pictures in the hall. The hall is not fireproof and seats between 500 ad 600 persons.

Rev. William N. De Berry, pastor of St. John's Church, was informed of the action of the West Springfield Selectmen soon after the meeting closed and he was thoroughly disheartened at the prospect of having the film shown in West Springfield after it had been barred from Springfield. Whether any protest would be made he could not say, as he felt that voters of Springfield would have little weight in a petition in West Springfield. Mr. De Berry is going to Vermont today and on his return may take action if there is any reasonable prospect of inducing the West Springfield authorities to change their decision.

"It is a bad thing," said Mr. De Berry. "A very bad thing that this show which was kept out of Springfield by Mayor Stacy for good and sufficient reasons should be allowed to come just across the river and sow its seeds of race hatred almost in our midst. The show is not historical and misrepresents well-known facts. It represents the Ku-Klux as rescuers when in fact they were criminals. It puts the progressive as well as the criminal Negro in a bad light and belittles the splendid work of the abolitionists by falsifying history.

"The show was not barred from many cities without just cause. President Eliot of Harvard, Jane Addams and Rabbi Wise would not protest against a show if there were not good grounds. It seems too bad that such shows should be put in motion pictures when there are so many good, uplifting and entertaining films that might be shown."

BAN PLACED UPON THE WORD 'NIGGER'

Providence R. I. March 24 — The Board of Police Commissioners placed the ban upon "The Nigger," a race hating play, following protests from Fillmore R. Purnell, Rev. J. H. Wiley, Eugene A. Walton and Dr. W. H. Higgons.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

DIXON PLAY WINS IN R. I.

PROTEST MADE BY CLERGYMEN, LAWYERS AND LOCAL N. A. A. C. P., AND PROMISE OF ELIMINATING OBJECTIONABLE SCENES—BEFORE PRIVATE EXHIBITION GIVEN DAILY PRESS ANNOUNCE PLAY WILL BE GIVEN—CUTTING OUT OF RAPE SCENE IS NO VICTORY FOR COLORED—COLORED PEOPLE SHOULD STORM THE THEATRE EN MASSE.

(Regular Guardian Correspondence)

Providence, R. I., August 11, 1915.—A great protest was made against the production of the "Birth of a Nation" in this city. At the hearing a large number of ministers, lawyers and doctors were present and many spoke. After both sides were heard, the commissioners decided that they would allow Mr. Wendelschaefer to run the reels off in the presence of the ministers and a few others of the representative men of the city and the Police Board of Commissioners, and whatever was objectionable would be eliminated.

We were much surprised to see in the afternoon paper of the same day before the exhibition before the censors could make the decision, of the board, already given.

Colored Tricked in Board—Here Is the Notice in the Newspaper.

"BIRTH OF NATION" FILM TO BE SEEN AT OPERA HOUSE.

Police Will Grant Permission for Exhibition Here If One Scene, Objected to by Negro Residents of City, Is Eliminated by Producers.

A hearing was conducted by the Board of Police Commissioners today upon an application of Col. Felix R. Wendelschaefer, manager of the Providence Opera House, for a permit to show the Griffith photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation."

The session resulted in an agreement to produce the picture in this city if the exhibitors eliminate the Negro assault scene, which has caused objection on the part of Negro residents of other cities.

Col. Wendelschaefer announced this afternoon that the film would be brought to this city tomorrow morning and a private exhibition of it given before the Police Commissioners and the representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The office of the board was crowded this forenoon with lawyers, clergymen and doctors, while Col. Wendelschaefer was represented by Col Frank Tillinghast.

At the close of the hearing Chairman Walter A. Presbrey announced that he would grant a permit for a showing of the picture here if this incident, which has been objected to by the Colored representatives and those found not in keeping with the policy of the board are eliminated.

A permit to show the film was requested some weeks ago by the manager of the Providence Opera House, but, acting on information received by it from the National Board of Censorship and the New York Board of Censorship, the Police Board decided to withhold a decision until such time as objectionable portions of the reel were removed.

Chairman Presbrey said that, on the advice of a friend, he had recently seen the play in Boston. After scenes relating to the assault had been removed, he said, he saw nothing objectionable about it, and for that reason had again taken up the application of Col. Wendelschaefer.

Later Col. Wendelschaefer said that there was no reason why those portions of the picture to which the remonstrants objected could not be eliminated without hurting the plot of the story. He asserted his willingness to do this to meet the approval of the board.

BIRTH OF A NATION.

(Special to The Guardian.)

Atlantic City, N. J., August 9, 1915.

At a mass meeting held by the citizens of Atlantic City at the Jethro-Presbyterian church on Aug 6, 1915, to protest against the continuation of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolutions.

Whereas, there is being shown at the New Nixon theatre, in this city, a play entitled "The Birth of a Nation":

Whereas, the said play shows a Colored woman and a white man living an immoral life together:

Whereas, the picture represents the best women of the Colored race leading a life of drunkenness and dissipation:

Whereas, the play shows a Colored man chasing a little white girl for immoral purposes:

Whereas, the same little white girl is represented in the picture as dying to save the honor and virtue of the southern white women:

Whereas, Silas Lynch, the Negro lieutenant-governor, is represented in the picture as chasing a white woman around in a room trying to force her to marry him:

Whereas, the play shows Colored citizens preventing white citizens from voting:

Whereas, the play shows that murderous band of outlaws, known as the Ku Klux Klan, is justified in killing innocent Negroes:

Whereas, the manifest object in showing Hampton Institute in connection with the play is to divert the minds of the Colored people from the racial hatred which the play engenders: and

Whereas, in our serious judgment the play represents an unjustifiable and indefensible stigma and reflection upon the Negro race, Therefore, be it

Resolved, that we, the citizens of Atlantic City, protest against the continuation of the scenes of "The Birth of a Nation" as related to the Negro race, and be it also

Resolved, that the so-called race leaders of Atlantic City who neglected their duty are hereby condemned for their sottish and cowardly actions in the defense of the Colored race, and therefore, be it

Resolved, that their leadership is discredited and that they are repudiated before the civilized world: and be it further

Resolved, that President Frizell of Hampton Institute and all others who consented and recommended that pictures of Hampton Institute be shown in connection with "The Birth of a Nation" are censored and condemned as traitors of the Negro race: and be it further

Resolved, that Reverend Doctors Clark, Gregory, Langford and Martin are highly commended for the brave, noble and outspoken manner in which they denounced "The Birth of a Nation": and be it further

Resolved, that we highly commend the honorable William Riddle, mayor of this city, for his noble stand on this question: and be it finally

Resolved, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to Mayor Riddle, to the city commissioners, to the city "Press" and to the following out of town newspapers: The Crisis, The New York News, the New York Age, the Amsterdam News, the Boston Guardian, the Colorado Statesman, the Philadelphia Press, the Washington Star, the Washington Eagle, the Charlotte Observer and the Atlanta Constitution.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed)

James E. Johnson, Chas. A. V. Girod, E. C. Thompson, B. A. Webb, Herman S. Whaley, Frank H. Wimberley, J. M. Jackson, Committee on Resolutions.

Will Appear Before Mayor.

A committee of seventeen, accompanied by fifty or more citizens, will appear before the mayor and present a copy of these resolutions to him.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

12-6 Christian Recorder

The following was read to the congregation of Bethel A. M. Church, Lancaster, Pa., on Sunday evening, by Pastor R. H. Shirley, and presented to the Mayor on Monday A. M. as the grounds of the committee's protest against the play.

"The Birth of a Nation" belies American history on every page.

We do not object to the play because colored people are connected with it, but we object to commercializing the Negro's ignorance at a time when he was not responsible for the condition, nor does it help the case to know that poor ignorant whites are also represented.

We object to it because it is untrue to facts, it falsifies history in order to agitate and foster race antagonism.

It is true that a Negro was once Lieutenant Governor of one of the Southern States, and they inform us that he performed his duties and closed his career with credit to himself, his constituent and his race. This man is represented as having locked a white woman in his office and held her there in an effort to have her consent to marry him, until she was released by a band of Klu Klux.

But the most dastardly thing of all, in this day and time, is that our children, our young people and any Pennsylvania audience, for that matter, should see that illustrious citizen, Thaddeus Stevens represented in the basest of plots under the name of Hon. Austin Stoneman, and further, that he whom those who knew him best hold up to us as an example of personal purity should be represented as entering into the unmentionable social customs of the gentlemen of that region.

I am afraid that the laws of Pennsylvania may be so construed as to make it impossible to stop this commercial swinishness, but I am asking every self-respecting Negro, every race respecting Negro to keep from the play themselves, to keep all they can from attending it.

I do not know everybody in Lancaster, but I have faith in the pride of the white people of this city, and I believe they will honor Lancaster and vindicate the character of their noble dead by letting the play seriously alone.

2/3/16.

MAYOR FIGHTS PHOTO-PLAY

Charleston Citizens Headed By Mayor Breese Determined To Keep Out "Birth Of A Nation

Charleston, W. Va., Dec 20.—The photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation" which begins a week's engagement at the Burlew Opera House, this city, today, was bitterly fought by the leading colored business and professional men of this city; in fact the manager of the play said that they had never been given such a battle before. As soon as the colored citizens learned that the play was booked for Christmas week a committee consisting of Revs. F. H. Gow, B. R. Reed and T. S. Carroll, Profs. J. F. J. Clark, W. W. Saunders, C. W. Boyd and R. Cheeks, L. O. Wilson, State Librarian, C. H. James, wholesale produce and commission merchant, Drs. H. F. Gamble, W. L. Jones and B. A. Crichlow, and T. G. Nutter, attorney, waited upon the manager of the Burlew Opera House and registered their protest against the play, and not being satisfied with the audience with Mr. Burlew, took the matter up with Mayor George E. Breece and City Solicitor George McCilntic and insisted that the best interest of the city demanded that the picture should not be shown here as it would tend to disturb the happy relations existing between the races. The mayor immediately called a conference consisting of the above named gentlemen, the manager of the Burlew and the traveling manager of the photo-play to see if some understanding could not be reached. The conference proved unavailing as the committee insisted upon the elimination of the entire second part of the play, to which the management would not consent, as the elimination of the second part would have destroyed the picture. Failing to bring the parties together Mayor Breece decided to go to Parkersburg, on the 11th instant to witness the play, and was accompanied by the city solicitor, city manager, T. G. Nutter, C. H. James, Rev. F. H. Gow and J. F. J. Clark; and returning to the city Sunday morning, the mayor announced through the papers that he would not permit the play to be shown in this city as he considered it immoral and obscene and a gross misrepresentation of the colored people, and that if necessary he would use the police force to prevent its presentation here. On last Friday the manager of the Burlew applied to Judge Samuel D. Littlepage, of the Circuit Court, for an injunction, restraining the mayor and chief of police from interferring with the production of the play, and the case was argued by W. B. Byrne, for the Burlew, and T. G. Nutter and City Solicitor McClin-

tic on behalf of the mayor and chief of police. It was a forensic battle long to be remembered. Mr. Nutter made the principal speech against granting the injunction. His speech was characterized by the Charleston Daily Mail as "an impassioned appeal to the court to refuse the injunction and take no chance of having the happy relationship between the races interrupted" while the Charleston Gazette spoke of it as "a clear presentation of the law and a bitter denunciation of the parts which depicted his race." Mr. Nutter wired Hons. S. H. Lewis, Moorefield Storey and W. H. Trotter, of Boston, and Chris J. Perry and Dr. Snclair, of Philadelphia, for affidavits of the Boston and Philadelphia disturbances caused by the play, but did not receive them in time for the hearing. The temporary injunction was granted and the case was rushed to the Supreme Court of Appeals Saturday morning in hopes that a decision might be had before Monday. A petition was filed for an appeal and supersedeas and the case was argued at ten o'clock Saturday morning. The appeal was granted but the supersedeas was denied by a divided court. Judge Mason and Lynch favoring the appeal and supersedeas while Judges Poffenbarger and Miller favored the appeal but opposed the supersedeas because there was some questions as to whether or not the City of Charleston had the authority to pass the ordinance upon which the city authorities based their action, and as the court would adjourn at 2 p. m. for the holidays it would not have time to make a careful examination of the subject, hence the temporary injunction of Judge Littlepage remains in force until the appeal is finally passed upon by the court.

The colored people are singing the praises of Mayor Breece and City Solicitor McClintic for the great fight they made to keep the play out of the city. They left no stone unturned in their efforts to comply with the wishes of the colored citizens.

There was not a dissenting voice among the colored people—men and women were unanimous in their condemnation of the play and were ready to spend their last dollar in order to keep it out. No such unity of action has ever been witnessed before in this or any other city. They were backed in their efforts by every Republican office holder in the city, from the Governor on down, all of whom contributed what they could to the efforts to eliminate the play

To Rev. F. H. Gow belongs much credit for the great fight that was made against the play as he was the first one to bring the matter to the attention of the colored people.

BIRTH OF NATION AT GRAND MAKES TREMENDOUS HIT

Superexcellence Attained in the Movie Art, and Scenes Are Monstrous in Conception

Advertiser
2-22-16

A capacity house greeted the first presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" at the Grand Theatre Monday night, and the capacity house cheered to the echo the valiant sons of the Old South as they wrought and welded together the remnants from the civil war and builded the New South. The sentiment, more than once audibly expressed, was "God bless D. W. Griffith for preserving for all time the pictorial history of the tragedy, pathos, romance and glories of the manhood of the period of the civil war and the horror of the reconstruction period, lest we forget."

A review of "The Birth of a Nation" must be confined to its photographic excellence and the remarkable acting of the leading characters. Henry Walthall, an Alabama boy, is shown doing the best work of his successful career, while Mae Marsh, the pet but unfortunate little sister, and Lillian Gist, the beautiful daughter of the South-hating leader of congress, were never seen to better advantage in any of the roles that have made them stage and screen favorites for the thousands of patrons of the speaking and silent drama. Spottiswoods Aiken, as the dignified head of the old-time Southern family, portrayed his role with painstaking realism, while George Seigmann made a splendid Silas Lynch, the negro lieutenant governor.

Was Superexcellent.

The presentation at the Grand is all that can be asked for of any photoplay. Artists of the highest ability have charge of every detail of the work, and nothing is left undone to make the stupendous spectacle complete and true to life and time depicted. Glimpses of the Old South shown in the early stages, gradually fade into the wreckage of the splendid country devastated by war, and Sherman's march to the sea vividly and strikingly illustrates that general's summary of what war is. The coming of the Ku Klux Klan, although not entirely true to history, is cleverly conceived and admirably worked out.

Has Gripping Interest.

As reel after reel of the enormous production is unrolled an intensity of interest and attention is developed that catches, holds and sways the entire house, and, unconsciously, the storms of applause break and roll as the confident Confederate army enters into the giant struggle, and while the pitiful remnants of that glorious band fight against odds that fore-doom them to defeat and charge recklessly, heedlessly in face of withering cannon fire. The coming of peace brings forth the real manhood of the Old South, and the terrors of reconstruction fail to entirely succeed in the fiendish desires of the enemies of Lincoln and the South.

Is Plea For Peace.

"The Birth of a Nation" tends to enlarge upon the cruelty and needlessness of war, while its moral is a plea for peace among all peoples with just recognition of the rights and accomplishments of all. The generation that lived, made and endured the soul-trying period depicted is fast fading into the valley of the shadow, and the oncoming generation knows naught of the deeds that made life for them today desirable, hence "The Birth of a Nation" fails to arouse, engender or foster race hatred—to the contrary it is a glorious reminder of a period that tried men's souls and made immortal the fair name of the daughters of a South that shall be known no more.

First Matinee Today.

While the house was filled to its capacity Monday night, and the advance sale of seats for all performances is very heavy, there are still many desirable seats for each and all of the other performances yet obtainable. The first matinee is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon, and each day thereafter there will be two performances, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. The engagement continues throughout the week.

Confederate Vets Coming.

Thursday afternoon the veterans of the Old Soldiers' Home at Mountain Creek will be brought to the city as the guests of the Elks, and every veteran in Montgomery is invited to join them in attending the matinee performance as the guests of the great fraternal organization.

Seats are on sale at the box office, and excellent ones are still obtainable for each and every performance, notwithstanding the gratuitously circulated report to the contrary.

PITTSBURGH, PA.
LEADER
AUG 1 1915

COLORED CIVIC LEAGUE ISSUES PROTEST AGAINST MOTION PICTURE FILM

The Allied Colored Civic League of Pittsburg is sending out a circular letter protesting against the showing of the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation" in Pittsburg. The league protests against the exhibition of this film and asks the co-operation and aid of the people of Pittsburg, saying: "As American citizens, we think it our highest civic duty to safeguard and protect the history and institutions of this nation. In this play we find a crafty attempt on the part of the author to change th true date of the nation's birth.

"The nation was not born in the Civil war, nor at the reconstruction period, but in Independence hall, Philadelphia, in 1776. We protest against this play because it seeks by false but vivid pictures of the horrors of negro domination and official incapacity to secure the sympathy of the north and incite hostile legislation against the negro. By cunning perversion of the truth, this play represents Union soldiers as aiding and protecting the negro in acts of crime and immorality against the whites.

"The pictures revive and incite race rancor and prejudice and poison the minds of the young, with whom our young must live and work out their destiny. The whole play is a diabolical scheme of false impressions, wrought by a master hand bent on prejudicing the public mind against the American negro and utterly destroying him.

"As citizens of Pittsburg we offer a protest against this play because we fear that the peace and harmony which has existed between the races, of which we are justly proud, will be destroyed. We realize that Pittsburg cannot 'promote progress' when 30,000 of her citizens are held up to public ridicule and shame. We know we are not making a selfish protest against these pictures when such national characters as Jane Addams and President Eliot have characterized them as both untrue and indecent.

"In the light of this condemnation; in the light of the very uphill struggle which the millions of colored people in this land are making; in the light of fairness and of an equal chance for every man and woman, regardless of race or creed, we feel that our efforts to enlist the co-operation of all well-thinking men and women in this community, to suppress this play, will not be in vain."

Boston Herald
APR 1916

MAYOR CALLS FILM 'OUTRAGE'

So Declares to Delegation That Protests Production of "Birth of a Nation."

Mayor Curley declared emphatically yesterday, as the result of persistent questioning by W. Munroe Trotter and several other Negroes who visited him at City Hall, that the "Birth of a Nation" is "an outrage upon the colored people of the country."

"That is all we want, Mr. Mayor," answered Trotter. "We realize that under the present law you cannot stop the play. But throughout the country the word is being spread that you favor its production. We are pleased to see that you do not."

Then the mayor added: "The white men, I believe, have more right to object to the play than the Negroes, for the picture depicts a white man assassinating President Lincoln and a white man stirring up the Negroes to revolt. It is obvious, though, that the whole thing is a continued attack upon Negroes. But there is nothing immoral or obscene in it, and consequently nothing contrary to law."

The mayor agreed to ask the police commissioner to confer with him again on the reports of their censors with a view to finding whether there is any way in which features of the play objectionable to Negroes can be eliminated.

"As far as I can see now," the mayor admitted, "there is no remedy to prevent any production which caluminates and traduces any element of the population but a statutory enactment vesting authority directly in the mayor to prohibit any such production.

Having secured the mayor's disapproval of the production, those protesting against the photo-play charged that Negroes have been refused the right to buy tickets for the "Birth of a Nation."

"The color line has been drawn," declared Trotter, "at the box office of the Tremont Theatre. Negroes standing in line for tickets have been refused tickets, while white people in front of them and behind them got the tickets with no trouble. A Negro woman who is very white and does not show her color secured three tickets at the theatre on Saturday, while a Negro man preceding her was refused."

The mayor refused, however, to take any steps to investigate these charges, declaring they were not within the province of his office.

That the film already has created ill feeling toward the colored people in Boston was indicated by the remarks of the Rev. M. A. Thornton, who told the mayor he was glad to get out of the Tremont Theatre Saturday at the close of the photo-play, as remarks he heard while witnessing it caused him to fear for his life.

Others in the delegation who spoke were Butler Wilson, the Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, the Rev. A. W. Puller and W. D. Brigham.

John Cusick, attorney for the producers of the play, notified the mayor later in the day that no further recommendations by the mayor for changes in the film will be complied with.

Race Problem - 1915

Moving Pictures

SAN FRANCISCO FIGHTS BIRTH OF NATION

Mayor Rolph Has Police Stop Play, Which Returns to Savoy Theater After a Thirty Weeks' Run—Playhouse Dark for Two Days—Motion Picture Owners and Managers Protest—The Mayor Withdraws Order.

PICTURE RUNNING IN FULL BLAST

Chicago Defender

Board Will Attempt to Pass Ordinance Unfavorable to Dixon's Plays Soon—Better Class of Whites Against Play—Hearst's San Francisco Examiner Against Stopping Film, but Admits That Play Hurts the Race.

1-15-16

San Francisco, Cal., Jan. 14.—San Francisco is all up in arms over the return to this city of "The Birth of a Nation," the degrading film play of Thomas Dixon, Jr. It came to the Savoy theater after a short absence. Spurred on by its success of a thirty weeks' run here before, it came back again to further stir up race prejudice. The race people had heard of its coming and left no stone unturned to stop it and its filthy work. Meetings were held in all parts of the city and committees met Mayor Rolph in an endeavor to have him stop the performances. The Grand Army of the Republic was enlisted into the cause. Letters were sent to the chief of police, also to the board of movie supervisors. The chief of police, upon orders of the mayor, stopped the play and the Savoy was dark for two days. In the meantime the movie picture theater managers and owners got busy and sent a delegation to see the mayor. As a result the mayor withdrew his order. Last Monday at a conference of both the motion picture men and the Negro Welfare League the mayor stated that there was no ordinance that prohibited the exhibition of all movies tending to show racial feeling. He also stated that his action was based upon the fact that he understood that the board of supervisors were to pass an ordinance that night. However, the board failed to do so, and said that another attempt would be made two weeks hence.

Chief of Police Issues Orders.

In a letter to the Welfare League he states that the play had been reviewed, and that he had ordered and suggested the following:

Company Commanders:

The San Francisco Moving Picture Censor Board, having reviewed the picture entitled "The Clansman," has the following to say, suggest and order concerning same:

1. When the old white woman in the abolitionist meeting sniffs the little colored boy and shows plainly that his odor disgusts her—this is in very bad taste and is generally unclean and offensive.

2. The scene between the mulatto housekeeper and Stoneman, where he finds her after she has torn her clothes, is offensive through too much lustful de-

1. That part of the scene where he strokes her naked shoulders and his feelings are seen to be aroused thereby must be eliminated.

3. The brutality of the guerrillas in the Cameron house in the scene in which the women take refuge in the cellar is too long-drawn out and much overdone. A portion of this scene of wanton violence should be cut.

4. The scene in the legislature showing the buffoonery of Negroes taking off of shoes, etc., is overdone and overplayed, and is therefore essentially offensive to colored people.

5. Gus' chase of the girl is far too long-drawn-out, and that part where he overtakes her on the cliff and slavers at the mouth like an animal must be eliminated. This is absolutely offensive to the moral sense.

6. In the mob scene towards the end, just before the K. K. K.'s arrive, Negroes are shown grabbing up white women, fondling and kissing them. This part must be cut out.

7. The struggle scenes between Lynch and Miss Stoneman are too frequently flashed and in too much detail. They should be pruned and shortened.

Please be advised that we are suggesting changes Nos. 1, 3, 4, and 7 as in our judgment necessary to make the picture less offensive on all sides, but that changes 2, 5 and 6 are mandatory, as far as this board is concerned.

Other than the items above mentioned, we have no objection to the picture, though we do believe a good deal of it to be in somewhat questionable taste.

You will see that the provisions of the communication from the Censor Board are complied with.

D. A. WHITE, Chief of Police.

The movie owners have enlisted the aid of the Examiner, which is owned by Hearst, who also is in the motion picture business. Jan. 4 this paper came out with an editorial that claimed that the efforts of the race to have the play film stopped was a menace to the motion picture business. Yes, we guess it was, when the movie in motion spent thousands of dollars all over the country with the Hearst papers.

Answer to Hearst.

Mr. Hearst seems to think that the framers of the constitution would not have the movies interfered with any more than the press. We will state that there have been instances when the press got so far beyond decency that they have been suspended for sending improper matter through the mail. We speak of one in particular, Jim Jam Jeems. "The Birth of a Nation," if suppressed, would only go to make other movies cleaner. There is no howl in cutting out suicides and murders from films. You admit that the picture reflects upon the race and the northerner, but you won't admit that because of these indecent scenes it should be stopped. As from a movie standpoint it may be a grand picture, but from the standpoint of justice to thousands of your readers who know that you are catering to the people of the South, where you have recently entered the newspaper business, and to twelve million people who have a true sense of feeling, this picture should not be shown. The moving picture theater may be the poor man's theater, but the film with the two-dollar prices and the feeling against any one race like that which "The Birth of a Nation" leaves in its trail is not for any man.

Binghamton, N. Y.

Press

DEC 29 1915

MAKE PROTEST ON 'BIRTH OF NATION'

Colored People Call Photoplay Misrepresentation; Unprejudiced, Says Gillen

Fred Hazel, president of the Binghamton Colored Civic League, has called a meeting of the colored people of the city, to be held in Bethel A. M. E. Church on Susquehanna street at 8:30 o'clock this evening, to protest against the presentation of the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation," which is billed for Stone Opera House some time in January.

Basing his opinion of the picture on comments that it has aroused in other cities, Mr. Hazel asserts that it is a "travesty on history, a breeder of racial antipathy, magnifying the faults of the colored race, while glorifying the lawlessness of the whites." He believes that the film is the more dangerous because the colored race is shown as vicious and lawless in a picture which otherwise is a photographic masterpiece.

The photoplay is based on Rev. Thomas Dixon's novel, "The Clansman." Mr. Hazel cites as one of many comments upon the photoplay the following by Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago, which is printed in the Crisis monthly magazine, edited in New York in the interests of the colored race:

"The producer seems to have followed the principle of gathering the most vicious and grotesque individuals he could find among colored people and showing them as representative of the truth about the entire race. It is both unjust and untrue. The same method could be followed to smirch the reputation of any race. For instance, it would be easy enough to go about the slums of a city and bring together some of the criminals and degenerates and take pictures of them purporting to show the character of the white race. It would no more be the truth about the white race than this is about the black."

When it came to the attention of Manager Fred Gillen that opposition to "The Birth of a Nation" was being organized, he said today:

"I went to New York to see the picture, and can give my personal assurance that it is not an attack on the colored race. Some of the most important characters in the picture are the real black, full-blooded negroes, who are beloved and trusted by the true Southerners. The closing pictures of the films show what is being accomplished in the South in educating and uplifting the colored race, the educational and manual training institutions where the colored boys and girls are prepared to make their way in the world, and become self-supporting, self-respecting citizens. No fair-minded person who sees the film can carry away a feeling of prejudice against the colored race. If that was the motive of the picture I would not permit it to be presented here.

"Historically, 'The Birth of a Nation' is absolutely a faithful presentation. It is based on facts, and to have every detail absolutely right vast expense was incurred. The producers bring their own orchestra and the film will be altogether the most impressive photoplay produced in Binghamton."

Boston Journal

'NATION" FILM IS NOW UP TO CENSOR BOARD

Governor Signs Bill Naming Curley, O'Meara and Judge Bolster.

MAJORITY VOTE WILL PREVAIL

Hays Charges Legislature Influenced by Fear of Colored Vote.

Whether or not "The Birth of a Nation" may continue to be produced at the Tremont Theatre is now up to Mayor Curley, Police Commissioner O'Meara and Chief Justice Bolster of the Municipal Court, the bill created those three a board of censors with power, by majority vote, to stop any theatrical production at their pleasure having been signed by Gov. Walsh yesterday.

The governor gave the measure his approval within half an hour after the Senate finished its consideration of it and refused by a vote of 16 to 23, to reconsider its enactment.

"Any show that cannot get the approval of two of these three men ought not be permitted to continue," said Gov. Walsh as he affixed his signature and handed the quill to William L. Reed, the negro messenger at the executive chamber.

Last Stand Not Strong

The last stand of the opponents of the measure was not as strong as their previous efforts to kill the bill. Three of the senators who have voted against the measure ever since the amendment providing for majority vote was attached—Senators Hobbs of Worcester, Norwood of Hamilton and Doyle of New Bedford—voted against reconsideration yesterday.

Announcement that Senator Hobbs would change was made by that member after the fight on the enactment in the Senate Thursday.

During the debate yesterday Senator Norwood said while he believed the bill as drawn to be a bad one, the Senate had decided otherwise and he would not prolong the fight further.

Senator Doyle of New Bedford, one of the most strenuous opponents of the bill, said it was apparent the friends of the bill had the necessary votes and therefore further attempt to defeat it would be futile. He also announced in advance his intention to vote against reconsideration.

Hays Fights to End

Senator Hays of Brighton, who made the motion to reconsider, fought to the very end, and charged that the members of the Legislature had been influenced by fear of the colored vote. He said that he had a large number of colored men in his senatorial district, but defied them to carry out threats he said had been made that they will defeat him for re-election.

He criticized colored employes at the State House for lobbying the Senate on the bill. This brought from Senator Sullivan of Boston, also an opponent of the bill, a retort that Robert Taylor, the elevator operator, had a right to be looking after his own interests while he was on his noon hour.

Hayes replied that he did not refer to Taylor, and that, in fact, he had not seen him in the chamber. He called attention, however, to the presence of William L. Reed, the governor's messenger, in the chamber.

On the roll-call the senators divided as follows:

For reconsideration—Senators Cummings, Eldridge, Fitzgerald, Green, Hays, Jackson, Leonard, Marchand, McGonagle, McLane, Perley, Sheehan, Sullivan, Tetlet, Timilty and Wells—16.

Against reconsideration—Senators Bagley, Bartlett, Bates, Bazeley, Bean, Cavanagh, Clark, Doyle, Ellis, Farnsworth, Fay, Garst, Gifford, Gordon, Haigis, Hobbs, Kimball, Langelier, Martin, Mason, Norwood and Tufts—23.

Boston Advertiser

1915

PRES. ELIOT SCORES "BIRTH OF A NATION"

TERMS PROTESTED FILM FALSE IN ITS TEACHINGS

Klu Klux Klan Should Not Be Held Up as Something Worthy

Protest against the exhibition of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," as well as the spirit actuating its presentment in various sections of the country, was voiced at two largely attended meetings yesterday afternoon. The first was held at Tremont Temple and was under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the second being called by the Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, pastor of the 12th Baptist Church.

The speakers at the Tremont Temple meeting called the presentment of the play as being "unfair, un-American and not in accord with the principles of liberty as guaranteed under the Constitution." The audience at both meetings was largely composed of colored people, but there was a fair sprinkling of whites at each meeting place.

Perhaps the most important speech of the afternoon was made by President Emeritus Eliot of Harvard University. He spoke at the Tremont Temple meeting, and on being introduced by Dr. Francis H. Rowley, who presided, declared that he had not seen the much discussed motion picture.

He advocated the suppression of the film, however, but not on the same grounds as those who were gathered at the meeting. He said, "I do not favor the suppression of the picture because of the claim that it misrepresents or belittles a particular race or creed. It is on other grounds that I protest against the exhibition of the picture.

"The picture has been misnamed and misinterprets history. The nation was not born with the beginning of the reconstruction period. This nation was born with the signing of the constitution.

"The Civil War only placed a new interpretation on the constitution. It told the South as well as all the world that the Constitution was a contract not to be broken." At this juncture he compared the sacredness of the constitution as a contract with the German military view as to what a contract stood for.

Continuing he said: "I view the matter as an educator and teacher. The coming generations should not be taught that the 'Birth of the Nation' began with the reconstruction period. The picture from this viewpoint is false, and furthermore, the children should not be taught that the Ku Klux Klan, which grew out and for the purpose of violence, is something of which the people of this country should be proud."

He concluded his address by paying his respects to and confessing admiration for the vast progress made by the colored race in this country.

Rolfe Cobleigh, assistant editor of the Congregationalist, told of a conversation he had with Thomas Dixon, author of the "Clansman," on which story the photoplay was based. He said that the author of the story told him the picture was being presented for the purpose of showing the colored people as they really were, and declared that Mr. Dixon suggested to him that it would be better for all concerned, if the colored people of the United States were sent to Africa or some other place.

Frequently the speakers were interrupted by applause when points against the motion picture were scored. The other speakers, all of whom condemned the film, included Dr. Samuel M. Crothers, Rev. Henry F. Smith, Miss Adeline Moffat, Judge Philip Rubenstein, Mrs. Susan F. FitzGerald, Prof. Henry G. Pearson of M. I. T. and Rabbi M. N. Eichler.

The speakers on the Common, included M. W. Thornton, pastor of the Charles St. A. M. E. Church, Boston; Rev. T. E. Auten, pastor of Rush Zion Church, Cambridge, and Rev. D. O. Walker, pastor of Bethel Church, Chelsea.

UNJUST COMPLAINT OF SOME NEGROES

Object to Historic Motion Picture Play. Mayor Wilson Withholds Decision Until He Sees it.

WHIMSICAL PROTEST.

Following the suit of colored people in other cities, some prominent Bridgeport negroes approached Mayor Wilson last week and protested against "The Birth of a Nation" motion picture play that is to be presented at Poli's theater next week. The mayor listened to the complaints, which were based on allegations that the film contains scenes said to be derogatory to the negro race, and he took the matter under advisement. Mayor Wilson intends to see a private exhibition of the picture in question. He will base his decision on this.

As represented by the producers and as vouched for by a number of distinguished persons who have seen the play, it does not unfairly reflect on any race or people. It is a story of reconstruction days in the south, the plot of which follows standard histories and other works on that important era of American history. As such it is said to have an educational value.

According to the producers' view there are only two kinds of people to object to this film. Those who have never seen it and whose opinions have been formed through hearsay, and others whose narrow-mindedness or superfluous pride is responsible for their protests.

Intelligent colored people know full well that there are two sides to the negro problem just as there is to nearly all human questions. In the reconstruction days of the "sixties," no one but the super-proud or ignorant will deny that the negro problem was in its most perplexing state.

There are motion pictures representing the early colonists of New England as superstitious witch-burners; yet there is seldom a protest against such films; there are photoplays depicting disorderly and drunken scenes in the west, and there is scarcely a murmur; and in most melodramatic films prosperous manufacturers, bankers, brokers, etc., are depicted as cruel and dastardly villains, yet there is no demand that they be suppressed.

Indecency and gross scenes of crime ought to be cut out of film plays; but shows depicting historic events whether from a partisan viewpoint or not should not be squelched. Those who object can stay away and they can trust that the authorities will see to it that their kind is not libeled or abused in such plays.

There was a small riot recently in Baltimore when "The Birth of a Nation" was presented; but there is little likelihood of such happening in a Connecticut city where the majority of negroes are thrifty-law-abiding and honored citizens.

In New Haven, "The Birth of a Nation" picture will not be presented until after the city election there, October 4. The Republicans are in power there and the Ninth ward, where hundreds of negro voters live, is strongly in favor of the present city administration. So the Elm City will not have a chance to see this picture until that Ninth Ward vote is clicked off from the machine a week from Tuesday.

Finds "Birth of a Nation" Critics Are Perplexing

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

One of the most surprising, and I might say perplexing, phases of the situation created by the production of "The Birth of a Nation" is the attitude and criticisms of a few well-known men of this community.

Mr. Moorfield Storey, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, criticizes the picture because it is a "wicked libel on the negro race." He has never seen the picture. He relies upon the opinions of others for his conclusion. On the other hand, thousands of citizens have actually seen this picture, and among them men of equal standing in the community with Mr. Storey, who entirely disagree with him in his conclusion. Is Mr. Storey super-sensitive as to the feelings of his colored fellow-citizens and misinformed as to the facts, or are the thousands of citizens who have viewed this play wrong in their conclusions?

As the public continues to view this picture and public sentiment in its favor becomes more pronounced, the criticism from this small coterie of men continues, but their criticism indicates an entire change in their point of view. Therefore, we find Dr. Charles W. Eliot of Harvard criticizing the picture because: "It injured the whites more than the blacks," but at the end of his statement, in speaking about the continued presentation of the photoplay, he says: "I am not sure it will not have a very useful result—one worth having." Closely following this statement of Dr. Eliot, as if in consternation at his statement, we find our old friend Albert E. Pillsbury, who is one of the directors of the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association, coming out with a long dissertation in criticism, rather vitriolic and imaginative in scope, but, nevertheless, interesting from the point of view of bolstering the criticism, despite the facts.

He starts his letter by admitting that after having seen the picture he "found it very different from what I had been led to expect." Perhaps Mr. Moorfield Storey and others who have criticized this picture might find it very different from what they had been led to expect if they went to see it. However, Mr. Pillsbury still criticizes the picture as follows:

He finds it now "a defamation of the Union cause and an apotheosis of slavery and rebellion. Well, at least, this is a new one and one which our colored citizens are not apparently interested in, as they have argued their cause only from the viewpoint of vilification of the negro race.

Mr. Pillsbury finds another highly imaginative basis for criticism. That is a deep, dark scheme to cause the repeal of the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution of the United States, and, with the license of the poet and not the logic of the attorney, he reasons the white race "to arms." Of course, he brings in the Ku Klux Klan and alleges that the picture glorifies the principles of the Ku Klux Klan, chiding the public for its applause. He will not see that the public is applauding, not the principles of the Ku Klux Klan, which many of them know nothing about, but the beautiful exemplification of fine riding, beautiful scenery, fine horses and virtue triumphant over vice. Call it the Ku Klux Klan, or the Crusaders, or what you will, it is simply a fitting tribute to human nature and a beautiful picture.

Mr. Pillsbury's deductions from this picture seem absurd when we consider that a large number of Grand Army veterans who actually participated in the Civil War have seen this picture, with approval, but it remains for Mr. Pillsbury, who did not participate in the Civil War, to pick out the alleged slander to the Union cause and the alleged propaganda to repeal the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution as a basis for criticism.

To recapitulate, these gentlemen, with some others not mentioned, have criticized this picture at different times in the following terms: That it was obscene and immoral; the courts and public authorities found it otherwise. Not content they now say that it is a libel on the negro race. This becomes untenable. They then say it is a slander on the Union cause; that it is a direct propaganda to repeal the 14th and 15th amendments to the Constitution of the United States; and finally, that it ought not be suppressed and that it ought not be suppressed.

The facts are, however, that thousands of citizens have seen this play and have not been impressed as the gentlemen who have made the above criticisms.

The picture, itself, is comprised of a pictorial reproduction of written historical events, plus romance and character ably worked together in one allegorical theme called "The Birth of a Nation." It is intended to have its amusement value and does have a historical value. Naturally people will differ in their impressions of this picture, but I believe that over 99 per cent. of the 75,000 people who have seen this picture see absolutely no relevancy between the criticisms made by these gentlemen and the actual play itself.

The pity of it all is that these abnormal criticisms are creating in the minds of a large number of colored people an emotional hysteria leading them to think that their rights are in some way being infringed and it is encouraging them in false notions as to the offensiveness of this production. On the other hand, thousands of [illegible] are continuing to view this daily and no doubt go away with same feelings as those who [illegible] already seen it, wondering why there been so much ado about nothing.

JOHN F. C[illegible]

Boston, May 5, 1915.

1915

[illegible]

COLORED PEOPLE VOICE OBJECTION TO WRONG PLAY

A delegation of more than forty of the most prominent colored people in the city, including the pastors and representatives of most of the colored charges, waited on Mayor Ellis at the city hall Monday to voice a protest against the staging of "The Birth of a Nation," which is booked at one of the Monroe avenue picture theaters this week. A little investigation showed them that they were in the wrong berth and they withdrew their remonstrance. The performance against which they protested is not the one which they assert contains grave reflections on their race.

Joe Ford headed the delegation. When he learned that the objectionable picture was coming here in February, he declared that a campaign would at once be started against it.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

Boston Journal

29 April 1915

NEGRO RIOTERS FINED AND PUT ON PROBATION

Alleged Trustee of Newton Church Pays $2 for Profanity During Disturbance Over "Birth of a Nation"—Trotter and Puller Up Today.

At dusk last night the hearings of the negro men and women arrested outside the Tremont Theatre on Saturday night, April 17, during a demonstration against the film, "The Birth of a Nation," had not been completed. When court adjourned some of the defendants, who were charged with assault on an officer and attempting to rescue a prisoner, were on the stand in their own behalf. The cases of W. M. Trotter and Rev. Aaron Puller had not been called. Of four cases tried, one defendant was found not guilty and the other three either pleaded guilty or were convicted.

Because of the crowd, Judge Brackett took the cases up stairs into the grand jury room for the session. John Hines, a waiter at the Hayward, was first called, charged with sauntering and loitering. He told the court he went to the vicinity of the theatre in response to a telephone message which said his wife had been injured. He said at the time he was arrested he was still unsuccessfully looking for his wife. Justice Brackett discharged him.

The court held that Fred Banks was guilty of profanity, but placed his case on file. On the same offense, James L. Dunn, said to be a trustee of a Baptist church in Newton, was found guilty and fined $2. When Charles P. Ray was called to answer the charge of throwing an egg at the screen while in the theatre, he pleaded guilty. Upon agreeing to reimburse the theatre $20 for damages, he was placed on probation. The court ordered a charge of disturbing a public assembly dismissed for want of prosecution.

Clara Fosky, James T. Bivens, Stephen Massey and Louginia Foster were next called, the former charged with assault and battery with a hat pin on Patrolman Van Lanningham, and the others with attempting to rescue her after she had been placed under arrest. Patrolman Dowling testified that the woman threatened to use the pin on him and then struck Van Lanningham in the stomach. The latter's testimony had to do with the assault. The defendants had not completed their testimony when court adjourned for the day.

As District Attorney Pelletier has set tonight as the time limit for using the grand jury room, it is probable that the cases will be finished today. The charges against Trotter and Puller will be heard when those against the other four are disposed of. There was a big audience present throughout the hearing, which started at 10 o'clock yesterday morning.

Major R. R. Jackson, Representative in the Illinois Legislature from the Third Senatorial District, made history in that body this week not only for himself but the entire race. His bill "to prohibit acts tending to incite ill-feeling or race prejudice or to ridicule or disparage others on account of race" was reported out of committee favorably and came up for passage on Tuesday. Following is the full text of the bill:

The Bill as Passed.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly: That any corporation, person or combination of persons who shall advertise, publish, present or exhibit or cause to be advertised, published, presented or exhibited, in any public place in this State, any lithograph, drawing, picture, play, drama or sketch, that tends to incite race riot or race hatred; or that shall represent or purport to represent any hanging, lynching or burning of any human being incited by race hatred, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than $200 nor more than $1,000 for each offense.

Such plays as "The Nigger," "The Clansman," and "The Birth of a Nation" as movies will be barred from exhibiton in Illinois by the terms of Representative Jackson's bill, which passed the house by a vote of 111 to 2.

Representative Jackson is one of the two colored Republican members of the house from Chicago, representing in part the exclusive Kenwood district on the south side.

Speech Fires House.

He made a speech which set the house on fire, brought members to their feet, and won a decisive victory over those who were attempting to defeat the bill he had introduced.

Representative Jackson charged in closing the debate that the moving picture interests were behind the effort to kill his bill.

ROLL CALL ON THE BILL.

Following is the vote on Major Jackson's bill known as House Bill No. 131:

YEAS.

Atwood	Madsen
Benson	Mason
Bentley	Maucker
Bippus	McCabe
Boyer	McCormick
Brewer	Merritt
Brinkman	Mitchell
Brown, W. M.	Moore
Browne, Lee O'Neil	Morrasy
Bruce	Mulcahy
Burns	Murphy
Buxton	O'Rourke
Campbell	Pace
Conlon	Perkins
Cooper	Placek
Curren, Chas.	Prendergast
Curran, Thos.	Provine
Dahlberg	Quisenberry
Dalton	Rentchler
Davis	Rethmeier
Devereux	Richardson
Devine	Rinehart
Donlan	Roderick
Drake	Roe, Arthur
Dudgeon	Rostenkowski
Ellis	Rothschild
Epstein	Rowe, Wm.
Farrell	Ryan, Frank
Felts	Ryan, F. J.
Festerling	Ryan, J. W.
Frankhauser	Santry
aresche	Scanlan
orman	Scholes
raham, T. E.	Schuberth
raham, W. J.	Seif
reen, E. W.	Shurtleff
riffin	Smith
amlin	Sonnemann
arvey	Stanfield
elwig	Thomason
ennebry	Thon
cks	Tice
lton	Tompkins
laday	Trandel
oe	Turnbaugh
ckson	Turner
cobson	Tuttle
ane	Vickers
essinger	Vursell
lens	Walsh
ntz	Watson
ech	West
Page	Wilson, G. H.
pshulch	Wilson, Harry
yle	Wilson, R. E.
ynch	Wood
yon	Mr. Speaker

NAYS.

ierson	Purdunn

YEAS 114; NAYS 2.

Boston Advertiser

JUN 3 1915

WON'T STOP FILM PLAY PRODUCTION

BOARD OF CENSORSHIP ANNOUNCES DECISION

Ruling Made on Question of Revocation of Theatre License as Halting Production

"The Birth of a Nation" will continue to be produced at the Tremont Theatre, according to an absolutely final decision rendered after a three-hour session of the new Censorship Commission created by recent legislative enactment. From this decision there is no appeal, as the question came on the revocation of the license.

Whether the decision was unanimous or not could not be learned, for no details were given out concerning the executive session of the Commission, which is composed of Chief Justice Bolster of the Municipal Court, Mayor Curley and Police Commr. O'Meara.

The Commission convened at 4.15 p.m. J. M. Hallowell, William H. Lewis and Butler Wilson represented the protestants and John F. Cusick represented the licensee. W. H. Trotter was in the anteroom for a considerable period of time arguing for admission to the meeting on the ground that his organization, the Equal Rights League, had no representative present. He was not admitted, however.

At the opening of the meeting each side was given a half hour to present its case, but as the proceedings developed each took more than an hour. Corporation Counsel John A. Sullivan was present and expressed his views at various times concerning the powers conferred by the recent legislation. A petition was presented by the protestants signed by more than 6200 citizens. The petition included the signatures of Charles W. Eliot, Rev. William Ewing, Rev. O. P. Gifford, A. H. Knowles, Joseph Lee, Rev. W. C. Gannett, Francis P. Sprague, Charles W. Townsend, Francis J. Garrison, Prof. Joseph H. Beale, William Lloyd Garrison jr., Lawrence G. Brooks, and numerous other prominent persons.

The executive session of the Commission lasted an hour, at the end of which, the decision was announced to the press by Chairman Curley. At that time the Mayor stated that he was unable to give any of the details of the meeting, as there had been an agreement between the members to this effect.

Boston Herald

JUN 4 1915

MR. HALLOWELL'S ADVICE

It is excellent advice which Mr. J. Mott Hallowell, one of the leaders in the protest against the "Birth of a Nation," gives to colored people of this community when he tells them to abandon all thought of trouble-making in connection with the play—the continuance of which is now decreed—and to apply themselves to demonstrating their own character and capacity. This is the right note. The colored people have it within their power to discredit the usual southern view of them, which finds expression in "The Clansman," and is, with only slight modifications, transferred to the films in this production. We grant that it is a hard task and an uphill road, but so much will be their greater glory in the accomplishment.

Colored people ought also to rejoice with everybody else in an essentially free atmosphere for the stage, as for the other instrumentalities of public information and enlightenment. The Negroes should remember that the whole North is involved in this, quite as much as they, and that Boston shows itself essentially liberal in welcoming a presentation of the southern view of the struggle of 50 years ago. We hope Richmond and Atlanta and New Orleans will be equally tolerant of any presentation in novel, or play, or song, of what is our historic position. In such ways the two sections may know each other's theory of what has happened. Through the "Birth of a Nation," we are becoming cognizant here, as never before, of the southern view of the issues that preceded as well as of those that followed the great struggle at arms of half a century ago.

It is peculiarly fortunate that this decision was made by unanimous vote, in order that no individual and no party can henceforth secure political capital by claiming status as an overridden minority. The three censors in all such cases should agree by standing together to give their decisions the full weight to which such an adjudication may be entitled.

The National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, yesterday asked the permission of Magistrate Herbert of the Jefferson Market police court to withdraw its complaint against D. W. Griffith and Barry E. Aitken, producers of the "Birth of a Nation" film and the case was dismissed. The case was first called on March 11, and subsequent to that time the court has granted ten adjournments at the request of the association. Former Congressman W. S. Bennett represented the association and Martin W. Littleton represented the producers.

BIRTH OF A NATION COMING

Infamous Race Prejudice Agitator To Be Shown at The Olympic Theatre For An Extended Run Beginning Sunday August 29.

The "Birth of a Nation," Thomas Dixon's infamous picture has been booked to show at the Olympic Theater for an extended run beginning, Sunday, August 29. Dixon is the author of "The Clansman," and his late picture, "The Birth of a Nation," deals with factitious ideas concerning conditions existing between the white and colored people prior to and just after the Civil War. Mayors of all the large cities in the country have refused to permit it to be shown. It has been pronounced as dangerous, an agitator of race prejudice, low and degrading, and a breeder of race hatred. The Argus sounded a warning a few months ago on the coming of this picture and at that time the authorities promised to suppress it if objectionable. Some time ago, Miss Charlotte Rumbold, recreation head of the Park Division, in filing an objection to the play before the Board of Police Commissioners, said: "It deals with the Reconstruction Period in the South, and because St. Louis is a city where the sentiment between the North and the South was narrowly divided, it would be inadvisable to present such a show."

OAKLAND PUTS BAN ON BIRTH OF A NATION

Special to the Argus:

Oakland, Cal., August 13.—The citizens' vigilance committee of Oakland, Cal., headed by Rev. S. W. Hawkins, D. R. Wallace, Dumar Jones, E. Marshall, B. H. Godfrey and Atty. Lawrence Sledge, have succeeded in having The Clansman or Birth of a Nation stopped from showing in the city of Oakland.

NEW YORK MO TELEGRAPH

31 March 1915

MAYOR HEARS FILM PROTEST

Listens to Committee and Others Who Think "Birth of a Nation" Should Be Stopped.

ALTERATIONS MADE, HE SAYS

Managers Have Already Cut Out Many So-Called Objectionable Features, He Says.

Mayor Mitchel yesterday heard protests from over five hundred representatives of the negro population of the city and Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen Wise and Frederic C. Howe, who supported the arguments of the negroes, against "The Birth of a Nation," the motion picture in which the negroes allege they are portrayed as beasts. Mayor Mitchel, before the hearing closed, made the delegation happy by telling them that the managers of the moving picture show had promised to cut out the objectionable features. There had been some suggestions made that the Mayor had no power to stop the show, and Rabbi Wise declared in his argument that if that was true the Mayor had no power to stop a libel on a race of human people.

"The Board of Censors which allowed this exhibition to go is stupid or worse, and I regret that my name is even remotely connected as a member of such a board. The negroes in this city have been patient. They have not yet arisen to protest like the Irish, who attacked the production of "The Playboy of the Western World." The Irish saw the playboy as a caricature, not as a characterization.

"Stop this production, Mr. Mayor, and you will render a great service to the people of this country."

Mr. Villard, the vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, declared that the production was improper, immoral and unjust.

"I'll stake whatever reputation I have as a historical student," said Mr. Villard, "on my charges against this film play. The lugging in of the negro into this exhibition is needless and uncalled for, and the play would be improved upon in every respect if the objectionable scenes were taken out."

Mr. Howe said that he was at the meeting as a citizen, and that the ground of his protest was that the play affected ten million citizens who were degraded by the production. The speaker declared that one-half of the play dealt with war and the other half portrayed the negro as a degraded creature.

THE DIXON PLAY AT DR. REISNER'S CHURCH

During a Church Efficiency gathering held recently at the Grace M. E. Church, 131 West 104th street, the Rev. Christian F. Reisner, pastor, the vicious Dixon moving picture, "The Birth of a Nation," was shown. Special arrangements had been made with the managers, and mention in the daily papers stated that "before a vast audience of Methodist ministers from all over the State . . . the picture was shown in every detail as at the Liberty Theatre, with orchestral accompaniment." It was also stated that the "church performance was arranged by the Rev. C. F. Reisner."

The fact that this photo play, which has been condemned by many as being most inimical to the interests of the Negro race, was presented in a church of the Methodist Episcopal denomination, called forth the following strong letter of denunciation from the Rev. Wm. H. Brooks, pastor of St. Marks M. E. Church, a member of the same denomination:

Dr. Brooks' Letter.

To the Editor of The Age:

"The Birth of a Nation," a travesty on history; a breeder of racial antipathy; magnifying the faults of one race while glorifying the lawlessness of the other; peculiarly dangerous because its insidious poison is hidden in scenic beauty—outlawed in some states condemned in some others—at last creeps out of the theatre, where it never should have been, into the Church of God to furnish entertainment for the saints of the Most High.

This play with its objectionable features condemned by His Excellency, the Mayor of this city; the Commissioner of License, by the entire race so grossly maligned; by able representatives of the Jewish, Roman Catholic, Universalist, and most of the Protestant faith; finds a welcome in a church of the denomination of which I am a member—the Methodist Episcopal—and this church places upon this hatred-breeding propaganda, the sanction of our holy religion.

[illegible] been taught that Methodism [illegible] up definitely to spread scriptural [illegible] throughout the land. Has she finished [illegible] task and is now celebrating it with [illegible] band and theatrical performances.

In spite of this unholy marriage of theatre and church, the race so grievously misrepresented will live and be strong enough to shed tears at the grave of both of the contracting parties, when God shall say, Dust to Dust, and Ashes to Ashes.

Yours,
WILLIAM H. BROOKS.
Pastor St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Dr. Reisner's Explanation.

A representative of The Age called on the Rev. Mr. Reisner, and requested a statement from him concerning the motive behind the presentation of the play in his church. After declaring that for many years he had been a friend and had worked in the interests of the Negro, Dr. Reisner submitted the following statement setting forth the conditions under which the picture was presented in his church. He declined to enter into any discussion of the merits of the play other than from the technical standpoint of the development of moving pictures, but declared that he did not believe the production of the picture could injure the Negro race, because of the solid progress and advancement which that race has accomplished.

To the Editor of The Age:

One of your staff, in a very gentlemanly way, requested me to explain how we happened to give the motion picture "The Birth of a Nation" in Grace Church. I am glad to answer his request because I have always been a friend of the Negro. My father went through the Kansas contest and many times came near death because of his strong anti-slavery views and friendship for the Negro. For nineteen years, I have preached in their defense and have raised money for institutions dedicated to their uplift. Some of the best friends I have anywhere are members of the African race.

I am surprised that anyone who knews me would imagine that the picture would be shown if I believed it would injure a race which has made more progress with more hindrances than any which history has recorded. A committee of the New York Conference arranged a Church Efficiency gathering to be held at Grace Church. The Executive Committee determined to show the delegates a notable motion picture. It was found that the most remarkable one ever made could be secured. The question of its offensiveness or acceptability did not enter into the matter. If it were necessary I would be glad to state my own convictions about the picture but that is not necessary in this place. It was not brought here by me but by the committee and wholly with the purpose of showing what marvelous productions are now possible through motion pictures. My past record is full proof of my attitude towards the Negro race.

I beg to remain,
Yours respectfully,
CHRISTIAN F. REISNER.

ANOTHER VICIOUS PLAY

EDITOR HARRY SMITH OF CLEVELAND WARNS COLORED PEOPLE TO WATCH "UNDER SOUTHERN SKIES"—GOT REELS CUT OUT.

(Cleveland Gazette.)

That prejudiced southerners, and their northern allies, are determined to discredit our people, in this section of the country, in the eyes of the northern whites, and intensify the feeling against us to the point that it exists in the southland, there can be no question. Furthermore, that they are using vicious, malicious and infamous photo-plays, principally, to do this, we are now thoroughly convinced. Many months ago when the editor of The Gazette started the fight in Ohio, against those two miserable films, "The Nigger" and "The Birth of a Nation," went to Gov. Willis repeatedly relative to them, and continued to lead the effort against them until they were barred from the state by the State Board of Film Censors, we felt that the first-named photo-play was only the opening wedge for "The Birth of a Nation" and others of a like nature, and told the Governor so. We were not mistaken, as all now know.

Under Southern Skies.

On Tuesday evening, Sept. 28, 1915, we happened in a leading motion picture theatre in the heart of this city and witnessed a photo-play, "Under Southern Skies," which contained several scenes that were worthy of places in both of the miserable films very properly barred from Ohio by [illegible] to understand. It was here to impress all who saw it with the false idea that "Negroes" were continually after white women—assaulting them! There were other bad features. We immediately notified the chairman of the State Board of Censors and received the following letter in reply:

Ohio Board ofCensors.
233 South High St.
Columbus.

Oct. 1, 1915.

Hon. Harry C. Smith,
Editor, The Gazette:
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Sir:—I beg to acknowledge receipt of your favor referring to the five-reel production, "Under Southern Skies," and note what you say in reference to same. The records show that this film was approved by this Board with the following eliminations:

3rd reel: Cut out struggle between man and girl in yard.

4th reel: Cut out sub-title, "Steve, you don't mean Negro blood." Cut out scene of struggle between man and girl in yard. Cut out fight.

5th reel: Cut out man bound to tree. Cut out shooting.

With kindly regards,
Yours very truly,
CHAS. G. WILLIAMS.

In answer to the foregoing we wired Chairman Williams that the Universal Film Mfg. Co., which was promoting "Under Southern Skies," was ignoring the Board's order to eliminate the objectionable features, noted in his letter, and received the following telegram in reply:

Columbus, O., Oct. 2, 1915.

Hon. Harry C. Smith,
Editor, The Gazette:
Cleveland, Ohio.

Have wired the company to make the eliminations at once. You can take it up with your local authorities if they fail to do so.
The Ohio Board of Censors.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

ALLEGED NEGRO RIOTERS ARE PLACED ON TRIAL

Trotter and Puller Charged With Inciting Crowd at the Tremont Theatre—Woman Tells of Efforts to Buy Tickets for Photo-Play.

Yesterday afternoon the State concluded its presentation of evidence in the cases of W. M. Trotter, negro editor, and the Rev. Aaron Puller, who are being tried before Judge Brackett in a special session of the Municipal Court on the charge of disturbing the peace and inciting to riot outside the Tremont Theatre on the night of April 17. Two witnesses for the defense had been heard yesterday afternoon when Judge Brackett ordered the case adjourned until Monday morning.

In his opening, Attorney Edgar Benjamin said a majority of the 100 negroes who were in the room were to be called as witnesses. He said the defense expects to prove that after the management of the theatre had said there were no more tickets for sale, that tickets were sold to white people, and that after negroes had bene refused tickets white people bought them for the negroes; that tickets had been sold to negroes who had not been recognized as such and that some tickets were taken back at the door from negroes who had managed to purchase them through the failure of the ticket sellers to recognize their color.

He contended that the law forbids discrimination, and if it is proved that there was discrimination, the alleged disturbance and rioting that night was caused by the theatre management. In reply, Judge Brackett stated that if such evidence were introduced he would consider it in the light of mitigating circumstances, but would not take it as a defense.

Forty negroes were then called and sworn, and on Judge Brackett's suggestion, three were selected by Benjamin as his best witnesses. It was agreed that after they had testified and been cross-examined, the court and attorneys will decide as to whether or not it will be necessary to call the others.

Mary E. Moore of 36 Warwick street, Roxbury was called first, but didn't seem to remember clearly all that happened. She did recall having been refused a ticket, although a white woman directly in front of her purchased one. She claimed tickets were sold to other white persons after she had been refused.

Later, the white woman who had gotten a ticket purchased one for 50 cents for her at her request. She saw the picture. Two negroe women who had been ahead of her were also refused. She said she asked for the best 50-cent ticket and the seller had one in his hand to give her when he looked into her face and saw she was a negro.

After receiving her ticket she stood in the lobby and 10 or 12 minutes later heard Trotter ask for tickets, only to be told there were no more. She said when Sergt. King placed Trotter under arrest she asked him the reason and was told to shut up or be arrested, too.

Charles P. Ray, who, on Thursday, pleaded guilty to throwing an egg at the screen, said he arrived in the theatre at 7.30 and saw a white man and woman purchase a blue ticket for 50 cents, and soon after got one himself at the same price. He saw negroes refused and heard white people telling them to get out of line, as they had no chance to buy tickets.

The final witnesses for the government were Patrolmen Wingate of Lagrange street and Dunn of Boylston street; Frank P. Bruno, proprietor of a barber shop over the theatre entrance, and Miss Margaret E. Fallon, manicurist in th...

Bridgeport, Conn.

April 2 1915

Birmingham Views 'Nigger' Movie Play

Police Head Receives Protest from Meeting of Colored Citizens.

On complaint made by a delegation of 20 colored residents representing church and other colored organizations in Bridgeport, that the moving picture play entitled "The Nigger," which is being produced at a local theater, was offensive to the colored race and should be suppressed, Police Superintendent Birmingham today called in the manager of the theater and questioned him as to the character of the pictures.

The manager declared that there is nothing in the pictures that, in his opinion, could be offensive to either colored or white people and said that it had been shown to censors elsewhere and no objection has been made.

Superintendent Birmingham decided to form his own opinion and visited the theater late this afternoon to see the picture. The complaint was made to the superintendent at his home late last night, following a meeting at which the committee of protest was appointed.

New York Times,

March 1915

PROTESTS ON PHOTO PLAY.

Mayor Tells Negroes and Others That Films Will Be Cut.

A delegation of negroes from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People called on Mayor Mitchel yesterday and protested against certain features of the moving picture play "The Birth of a Nation," which was founded upon Thomas Dixon's book, "The Clansman." The Mayor granted a hearing in the Board of Estimate Chamber, and after speeches were made by several negroes and others, and by Rabbi Stephen Wise, Frederick C. Rowe, Commissioner of Immigration, and Oswald Garrison Villard the Mayor said that at his own request the producers of the play had agreed to eliminate the parts that met with the most objection. He said the censored film would be run for the first time last night.

Rabbi Wise said in part:

"If it be true that the Mayor has no power to stop this indescribably foul and loathsome libel on a race of human beings, then it is true that Government has broken down. The Board of Censors which allowed this exhibition to go is stupid or worse. I regret I am a member."

Mr. Villard, vice-president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said he thought the production was "improper, immoral and unjust."

Commissioner Howe characterized the portrayal of the negro as a depraved creature as "cruel, vindictive and untrue." Miss Lilian D. Wald said: "It is impossible to measure the potential dangers that threaten us if the production is allowed to go on."

Boston Mass Transcript

August 1915

"BIRTH OF A NATION" TO REMAIN

Two Extra Weeks Added to Long Engagement at Tremont Theatre

"The Birth of a Nation" announces an extra fortnight for its Boston engagement at the Tremont Theatre, and will not leave that house Saturday night, as had been intended. The limit of the engagement had been positively fixed and for four weeks the announcement had been made that the photo-play would be seen for the last time at the Tremont Saturday evening. The demand for seats was so great, testing the capacity of the theatre at both afternoon and evening performances, and mail orders from out-of-town were so numerous, that it was seen that many thousands would be disapointed by the closing of the engagement this week. After protracted negotiations between Boston and New York an extra fortnight was arranged, but that was positively all that could be obtained, as it was imperative that bookings for the regular season at the Tremont, beginning on Labor Day, should be carried out. As it is, however, "The Birth of a Nation" will be able to take the record of the highest total of performances given in a single engagement on the local stage. Other plays have stayed more weeks, but they were only given six evenings and two matinées, but "The Birth of a Nation" has been given twice every day since April 10, and the prices make total receipts that take the Boston record. With the performance of tonight "The Birth of a Nation" will have been given 224 times to a total of 385,000 persons. The last performance will be given at the Tremont on Saturday, Sept. 4.

Mayor Advises Change in Scenes in Photo Play

Tells Producer of "Birth of a Nation" That Negroes' Rights Must Be Protected.

Martin W. Littleton, representing the managers of the film play "The Birth of a Nation," running at the Liberty Theatre; Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," on which the photo drama is based, and D. W. Griffith, the man who put the play in picture form, appeared before Mayor Mitchel yesterday and asked to be permitted to confer with the Commissioner of Licenses and learn exactly what the city wished to be done in eliminating certain parts of the picture.

Mr. Littleton said that when protest were made by representatives of the National Association for the Advancement of the Negroes on last Tuesday; the managers of the play had no opportunity to be heard, and that while part of the picture had been eliminated after a conference with the Commissioner of Licenses, it was understood that it did not yet suit him. He added that the theatre had received notice that if further eliminations were not made, the exhibition would not be permitted to go on.

Mr. Littleton filed with the Mayor a letter from the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, praising the picture play, and one from the Rev. Talcot Smith, who is connected with the official paper of the Knights of Columbus.

"The question is, Mr. Mayor," he said, "just how far you want the Commissioner of Licenses to go and stop the play. They have suggested two scenes be toned down, and yesterday (Wednesday) the play was produced with the eliminations made. If you say we must take out the entire theme that is one thing and if you say we must moderate the theme that is another thing."

The lawyer said that the play had been passed by the National Board of Censors and that before it was produced it was taken before Chief Magistrate McAdoo, who stated that he could not interfere so long as the play was not immoral.

Mr. Griffith told the Mayor he wanted to do what was right, but that he did not want to be persuaded by a few persons when he knew that they were in the wrong.

"My mind is quite free," said the Mayor at the end of the hearing.

"I have seen the play. If it were as you suggest, merely an argument against the marriage of blacks and whites, it might be a different question, but there are two scenes that appeal to race prejudice, and I feel that they ought to be modified. I think the best thing you can do is to meet Commissioner Bell and Deputy Commissioner Kaufman and come to an agreement on the scenes against which the Department of Licenses protests. The negro citizens have certain rights that must be observed."

The hearing of the summons served on the play management was adjourned one week by Magistrate McQuade when the case came before him yesterday in the Jefferson Market Court.

One of the scenes to which objection is taken is that in which a negro chases a white girl over a cliff, and the other is that of a mulatto politician who tries to force marriage on the daughter of his benefactor.

FANS RACE PREJUDICE TO GLOWING FLAME.

Letter to Mayor of Hartford, Conn., by Dean of Hartford School of Religious Pedagogy.

Sept. 24, 1915.

Mayor Joseph H. Lawler, Hartford, Conn.:

My Dear Sir—Having noted that permission has been asked for the performance of the play called "The Birth of the Nation" I wish to present to you a most emphatic protest against such permission being granted. Having seen the play last summer in Portland, Me., I speak from personal knowledge. While professing to be historical, the play gives an exceedingly distorted view of the history of the reconstruction period. It implies that certain scenes wherein the Negro appears at his worst are representative of the Negro people as a whole. It fans race prejudice to a glowing flame. It glorifies the spirit and deeds of the Ku Klux Klan, which in reality were an expression of the same mob violence which has recently disgraced Georgia. For these reasons I urge most earnestly that permission to produce the play in Hartford be refused.

Should you desire to make public use of this letter, I should be glad to have you do so. Very truly yours,

EDWARD HOOKER KNIGHT.

Notable Protest against "Clansman."

The notable protest of men and women against the viciousness of "The Clansman" continuing further in this city and that the best sentiment is against it, was seen last Tuesday afternoon, when prominent men and women of both races and standing high in the national life of this city called at the office of Mayor Mitchell and called attention to the unwisdom of letting this play continue in this city. The audience to the Mayor was secured through the vigilance of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the speakers were for the most part members of that organization. Over 200 prominent men and women of this city active in the business and professional life of the city crowded the reception room and lent their influence to the protest. Prof. J. E. Spingarn presided and told briefly the object of the protest. He urged the Mayor to make immediate inquiry into the wisdom of permitting this infamous play to continue in this city. All of the addresses emphasized how the pictures as shown were greatly distorting and and twisting facts as they related to the Negro during reconstruction, and that the play was designed wholly to inflame public opinion against the Negro. Those who spoke were Rev. Dr. W. H. Brooks, Miss Lillian Wald, Dr. W. E. Dubois, Rabbi Stephen Wise, Oswald G. Villard, Fred R. Moore and George E. Wibecan. At the conclusion of the addresses a resolution was passed roundly condemning the infamous play.

A Beautiful Southern Woman Protests Against "Clansman."

Prominent white women of this city have joined heartily in condemning the "Clansman," and have protested in a body to the Mayor to many of the indecent scenes portrayed in the pictures. These women have written strong letters to the daily newspapers of this city which is aiding largely in bringing about the necessary pressure to drive the play out of this city. Among the prominent women of this city who are leading in the protest and loud in her denunciation of the wrongs that are done the Negro through the play, is Miss Rosalie Jonas, a beautiful Southern woman from New Orleans.

Miss Jonas since coming to this city has been active in the woman suffrage movement, and she has influenced a large number of her friends to sign the petition which she has sent to the Mayor. Miss Jonas is one of the most broad minded women or this country and believes in absolute democracy. She is prominent as a social worker among the colored people in this city, and is remembered for her kindness in distributing presents to the needy colored children at Christmas time.

The letter that Miss Jonas wrote to the Mayor is as follows: "May we not turn to you the representative of all races and classes in this great city, to beg you to act promptly and with justice to the Negro in this matter of the 'movie' entitled "The Birth of a Nation?' From its misleading title to its sacriligious ending, it is an effront to all the decent people of this community, and a gratuitous insult to our law abiding and self-respecting colored people. It is a malicious and mercenary attempt to discredit them, to reopen old sores, re-awaken old enmities between North and South, for the money in it merely. It prejudices by an entirely false presentment of the slave of the past, and makes progress harder for the already unjustly handicapped freeman of today. It would not be permitted in any Southern state, and if you allow it to continue here, you will perhaps arouse a dangerous condition of race and sectnonal feeling that may poison even this community free, so far from that curse." Among the strong letters of protest that have gone to the Mayor this letter is one of the strongest and straight from the shoulder, that has gone to the Mayor's office. Miss Jonas in talking to your correspondent, expressed much indignation at the pictures.

PITTSBURGH, PA.

JUL 2 1915

COLORED CIVIC LEAGUES OBJECT TO EXHIBITION OF "BIRTH OF A NATION"

A community protest against the showing of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," has been made by the Allied Colored Civic Leagues of Pittsburg, representing more than 10,000 colored residents of this city. The branches of the allied league include the Cosmopolitan Civic league, the Pittsburg Courier Publishing company, the Independent Equal Rights league, the North Side Civic league, the Young Women's auxiliary, the National A. A. C. People, the Lucy Stone Suffrage league, and the Fifth Ward Progressive league.

The colored residents of Pittsburg are protesting against the exhibition on the grounds that the plot is untrue and harmful to their race in general. They assert that the play has been denounced throughout America recently by eminent historians who say that it contains scenes not true to history and are revolting.

The Allied Colored leagues also protest against the picture because they claim that it has as its background the period of reconstruction and by false representations, attempts to justify the cruelty resorted to by the Ku Klux Klan in order to intimidate the negro freedman. It seeks, they say, by false but vivid pictures of the horrors of negro domination and official incapacity to secure the sympathy of the north, and incite in the north hostile legislation against the negro.

Fear that the peace and harmony which has existed between the races will be utterly destroyed is another reason the league gives for making a protest against the showing of "The Birth of a Nation."

New York ... News

APR 24 1915

THE BIRTH OF A NATION.

The facility with which motion pictures can paint history has been graphically shown the past week in the big Griffith epic, The Birth of a Nation, at the Liberty Theatre. It is just fifty years since some of the most memorable events of American history associated with the Civil War took place. In this comprehensive screen drama Griffith has been able to make these stirring occurrences live as faithfully as if one were participating in the actual events.

The production started on Sunday, April 18, upon its third month and is going as strong as ever, having aroused more interest than any offering of the current season on the New York stage. Its success here has been duplicated in Boston, Los Angeles and San Francisco, and plans are now shaping for a Chicago production. Nearly 125,000 people have seen the picture and the receipts have already passed the $100,000 mark in New York City. This is the biggest record of any theatrical offering in New York for this period.

MAY 1915

Goal Said to Be Negroes' Expatriation.

At an indignation meeting held in Tremont Temple, Boston, Sunday, to protest against the play "Birth of a Nation," written by Thomas Dixon, it was charged by Rolfe Cobleigh, assistant editor of the Congregationalist, and formerly of the staff of the Springfield Republican, that the ultimate idea of the author in producing the play was to deport the millions of colored people of this country to Africa and thus achieve the unquestioned supremacy of the white race. Among the prominent men who spoke at the meeting was Dr. Charles W. Eliot, who discussed the charge made by Mr. Cobleigh. Such action, which he considered practically impossible, would be an "abominable outrage" against both the black and white elements of the population, Dr. Eliot said. If Mr. Dixon entertains the thought that ten million American negroes can be shipped from this country as their forbears were brought into it, he greatly misjudges both the temper and needs of the white population. The problem is not to be solved in that way.

"NEW GOVERNOR" FILM TABOOED IN AUGUSTA

Augusta, Ga., July 31.—(Special.)—"The Nigger," or "The New Governor," will not be shown in Augusta. Because of the discussion of the film a private exhibition was given at a local theater last night, viewed by about 150 picked ladies and gentlemen. The manager of the house stated that he would abide by the decision of the audience as to whether or not the play would be shown publicly. The practically unanimous opinion of those witnessing the exhibition was that it is an insult to the south, representing neither present nor past conditions faithfully. At the same time the excellent work of the actors and photographer was commented upon, but the theme is by no means worthy of the work expended on the film. The Rotary club and the Woman's club had already protested against the play being given in this city.

CITIZENS FIGHT "BIRTH OF NATION"

Corporation Counsel Draws Up Petition to Argue Case in Appellate Court.

Judge Cooper granted the city of Chicago an appeal in the case of "City of Chicago" vs. "Birth of the Nation and Griffith" on Wednesday of this week.

Mayor Thompson has instructed the corporation counsel to use his entire force if necessary to draw up the case and fight it to the last ditch. Assistant Corporation Counsel S. A. T. Watkins is on the case, has seen the show and will be able to be of valuable assistance in the case. The case is filed and it will have right of way in the Circuit Court.

New York Times

18 April 1915

NEGROES MOB PHOTO PLAY.

Boston Police Clear Lobby, and "Birth of a Nation" Proceeds.

Special to The New York Times.

BOSTON, April 17.—The trouble threatened ever since the photo play "The Birth of a Nation" began its engagement at the Tremont Theater culminated tonight when 500 negroes, headed by W. Munroe Trotter, who made what was called an insulting address to President Wilson at the White House not long ago, arrived in a body and tried to buy tickets. The management declared that the house was sold out and that the people who were getting tickets at the box office had purchased them in advance. Trotter and his friends, among whom were several white men, assumed such an attitude that Manager Schoeffel called in the police, and a squad of 100, headed by Superintendent Crowley in person, hurried to the theater in automobiles.

The lobby was cleared without the use of clubs and the performance proceeded. In the audience were several negroes who had purchased seats in advance.

Six arrests were made—Trotter, the Rev. A. W. Fuller, pastor of the People's Baptist Church, John Hines, and two other negroes, and Joseph Gould, a white man.

Boston Herald

29 April 1915

NEGROES HEARD IN FILM CASES

One Pleads Guilty, Two Are Convicted and One Is Discharged.

In a special session of the municipal court, begun yesterday to try the cases of the Negroes arrested, April 17, at the Tremont Theatre, during an outburst against he photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," there were two convictions, a plea of guilty and the dismissal of one complaint.

Charles P. Ray, who was charged with hurling two eggs at the screen on which the film was being shown, pleaded guilty, and was placed on probation, with the understanding that he pay $20 to repair the damage he had done.

James L. Dunn, a trustee of the Myrtle Baptist Church in Newton, when called to answer a charge of profanity, told Judge Brackett of a mild exclamation that he used in remonstrating against pushing the crowd. Sergt. King and Patrolman Cairns testified that he said: "The cops are a lot of —— —— white trash," and that he did not "give a —— —— for the cops." He was a citizen and they were not. Dunn was found guilty and a fine of $2 was imposed.

John Hines, a head waiter at the Hayward, charged with loitering, explained that he had heard that his wife was injured in the crush and quit work to go to her side. Standing in front of the theatre, he said, a patrolman singled him out of a group of white persons standing around and ordered him to move. There was a short discussion and the officers arrested him.

E. P. Benjamin, his attorney, brought out that the patrolman had not told his client to move on seven minutes before the arrest, so the defendant was dismissed.

Fred Banks denied profanity, and the court said that he believed Banks was telling the truth, as he remembered it. Still, there was evidence that Banks had lost control of his tongue, and after a finding of guilty, the case was placed on file.

When the hour for adjournment came the court was taking evidence to the complaints against Mrs. Clara Fosky (charged with assault on Patrolman Van Laningham), Mrs. Eugenia Foster, James T. Bivens and Stephen Massey, charged with attempting to rescue Mrs. Fosky from the patrolman.

Policemen testified that Mrs. Fosky was arrested after she had hit Van Laningham three times with her fist, and as she was being taken down the street, the other defendants tried to interfere with the arrest. The defendants denied Mrs. Fosky's assault, and said that they laid their hands on the patrolman's arm, entreating him to let her go, as she was ill.

"BIRTH OF A NATION" BARRED

Springfield, Mass., June 11.—Following protests from colored citizens, Mayor Stacy has announced that "The Birth of a Nation" and similar plays designed to foment prejudice against the Negro will not be allowed to be shown here.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

Buffalo, N. Y.
Express

SEP 2 4 1915

AN AGGRAVATION TO A RACE.

According to a dispatch from Philadelphia yesterday: "One hundred policemen with drawn clubs and revolvers charged a crowd of 1,000 negroes tonight in front of the Forrest theater, where the motion play The Birth of a Nation is being presented. Fully 5,000 white persons saw the onslaught."

This film is founded on The Clansman, a romance by that arch negro-baiter, T. Dixon. So very likely the negroes are right in claiming that certain scenes in it are an insult to their race. The piece has been suppressed in some cities and modified in others through action by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which there is a branch in Buffalo. The film has not been brought here yet, but it appears to be a firebrand wherever it appears. The Philadelphia negroes would have done better to make a dignified protest, but some responsibility also rests on the authorities for their failure to censor such productions.

APR 19 1915

BOSTON NEGROES TO MAKE APPEAL TO GOVERNOR WALSH

Seek to Stop Exhibition of Alleged Objectionable "Movies."

Boston, April 18.—A thousand negroes, with some white sympathizers, voted at a mass meeting to-day to go to the State House at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning to enlist the aid of Governor Walsh in an effort to prevent further exhibition of the motion pictures which were the cause of the racial disturbance in the lobby of the Tremont Theatre last night, when several negroes were arrested. The pictures are based on Thomas Dixon's story, "The Clansman," and purport to represent incidents of the reconstruction period in the South.

William M. Trotter, one of those arrested last night on a charge of disturbing the peace, Michael J. Jordan of the Irish Land League, Frank B. Sanborn of Concord, who was introduced as the "only living abolitionist," and J. C. Manning of Montgomery, Ala., a former member of the Legislature of that State, addressed the meeting. They asserted that the effect of the pictures was to stir up race prejudice against negroes.

AUG 2 1 1915

Keeping Alive Anti-Negro Antipathies.

A Southern Baptist clergyman, born since the war and therefore acquainted only by report with its actualities, has done his utmost in various novels to keep alive the old antipathies. A play from his pen, dealing with the period of Reconstruction, has been presented in moving pictures in several parts of the country. It is about the grossest possible misrepresentation of the facts of the case, but so cleverly shaped as to excite an ordinary audience in an extraordinary degree.

He makes the Ku-Klux organization and its bloody atrocities an uprising of the white people against the outraging of the white women by black ruffians. I have a very distinct recollection of the events and controversies of that uphappy time, and I cannot recall a single instance of the association of the two things. It is the grossest unfairness to make the protection of white women the reason for the violent overthrow of the State governments established in the administration of Presidents Johnson and Grant, and overthrown in that of Mr. Hayes. Those governments showed no neglect in putting down such outrages more than did the governments which succeeded them.

I was one of those who supported the fusion of the Independent Republicans and the Democrats in 1872, and fought with tongue and pen against the re-election of President Grant. I urged the restoration of white rule in the South, but no argument from negro outrages on white women was ever heard at that critical and excited time

The case against the negro governments was their corruption in money matters and their inability to give the South the legislation it required for its prosperity and progress.

Judge Tourgee's "A Fool's Errand."

The best account of the Ku-Klux movement and its achievements is to be found in Judge Tourgee's book, "A Fools Errand, by One of the Fools." He went down after the war to try to help in building up the waste places, without any political ambitions. In spite of himself through his love of fair play, he was mixed up with the struggle of the blacks and the whites for political supremacy, and returned to the North. Not long after the book appeared a lady who was crossing the Atlantic in one of the big liners, lent it, half as a joke, to a Southerner who complained of having nothing to read. When he brought it back to her, she said, "I suppose you will say that the book is a tissue of falsehoods?" "No," he replied, "I do not say that. The book tells the story very much as it happened. If I have any comment to make, it is that if we Southerners had taken up the darkies as you of the North professed to do, we would not have dropped them as you have done!" Read "A Fool's Errand" and get the antidote to a mischievous play, which is imperilling the country with a reopening of race warfare.

A young white man coming from the picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," in Boston, was heard to say "the black brutes; why did they bring them here?" and similar things. He was, perhaps, easily inflamed, and for that reason he should not be considered. But the fact is that thousands go from those exhibitions who are similary impressed. They may not express themselves at once, perhaps will never express themselves, but a feeling of hate and distrust is set up not warranted by anything that is happening in this day. The South objects to "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a play which is similar to many a novel or play where there are victims of cruelty. The "Birth of a Nation" is a play of race against race, the object plainly being to intensify race feeling. A number of localities have declared against such productions, thus saving the situation to some extent. The influence of the actions of those localities will do very much to counteract the harmful influence of the productions. The prohibition will prepare the public to receive them at their worth, rendering them fangless, since the great majority of white people do not any more care for racial ruction than the colored people.

May 1915

COLORED MEN ASK MAYOR TO BAR A PICTURE PLAY

A delegation of colored men waited on Mayor Blankenburg yesterday, and asked him to prevent a movie film, entitled "Birth of A Nation," being shown in this city next November.

The visitors were led by Ex-Congressman George H. White, who told the Mayor that the picture was a reproduction of the "Clansman," the production of which Mayor Weaver stopped in 1905. He said the picture had been shown in New York and Boston after the elimination of several scenes, which it was thought might arouse racial feeling.

The picture, the speaker said, had been approved by the Board of Censors, but it was the wish of the colored people that it be kept from the screens in this city.

The Mayor said he would look into the matter carefully and see what authority he had to prevent the picture being shown after it had been approved by the censors.

Houston, Tex
Chronicle

OCT 1 1 1915

NEGROES OBJECT TO MOVIE FILM BIRTH OF NATION

Request has been made by a committee of colored persons, stating that they represent the city's colored population of 35,000 people, that the moving picture, "The Birth of a Nation," be prohibited from being shown in Houston. It is stated that the colored people look forward with apprehension to something which they think might tend to disuturb the eminently friendly relations existing between the white and colored people of the city by calling up incidences of the past in this time of peace.

The petition is signed by W. H. Logan, H. E. Lee, Dr. B. J. Covington, Edward J. Howard, I. M. Burgan, J. B. Bell and the Rev. A. W. Carr, as the committee, and by nine pastors of colored churches, four doctors and two other names

April 1915

Anti-Negro Film Case Is Again Postponed

The eighth postponement of the hearing of the Liberty Theater case, involving "The Birth of a Nation" film, which is the dramatization of Thomas Dixon's novel, "The Clansman," was granted by Magistrate Deuel of the Jefferson Market Court yesterday at the instance of James W. Orborne, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, which is the complainant.

A summons has been issued for D. W. Griffith and H. H. Aitken, managers of the film, to appear in court on May 2, when it is hoped the case will reach the trial stage. All of the eight adjournments of the case have been at the instance of the complainants, it is claimed by Martin W. Littleton, attorney for the defense.

The case of Howard Schaelfe, charged with disorderly conduct in the theater, by throwing old eggs at the screen and hitting the orchestra, will be heard on Tuesday.

NEW YORK HERALD

TO MODIFY 'BIRTH OF NATION'

Mayor Mitchel Makes a Suggestion That Carries With It Potency of an Order.

Mayor Mitchel suggested that two of the scenes of "The Birth of a Nation," now being shown at the Liberty Theatre, be modified, in deference to the protests of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People.

This decision was arrived at yesterday afternoon. Martin W. Littleton, representing the producers, appeared before the Mayor and asked to be allowed to hold a conference with the Commissioner of Licenses, to find out exactly what the city government wanted to do.

11 August 1915

MOVIES TO DEFEND NEGRO.

Educators Prepare Film Answer to "The Birth of a Nation."

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which objected to the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" on the ground that scenes in which white girls were attacked cast a reflection on the negro race, now is preparing a motion picture of Civil War times that will act as an answer to "The Birth of a Nation," and defend the colored race.

Charles M. Studin, one of the directors of the association, said yesterday that the association had conceived the project several weeks ago and had engaged Miss Elaine Sterne, a professional movie writer, to prepare a scenario. This is now ready, he said, and the association is trying to interest capital to back the venture.

PROGRESS OF NEGRO RACE.

Pictures Showing Advancement Since War Will Be Added to "The Birth of a Nation."

From New York yesterday David W. Griffith wired his general manager, J. J. McCarthy, that he had started the preparation of a new film to add to "The Birth of a Nation," now playing at the Tremont Theatre. The new film will show the progress of the negro race since the Civil War. Astonishing facts and figures will be disclosed concerning negro advancement.

The suggestion made by Dr Charles Fleischer that this work would add to the historical value of "The Birth of a Nation" appealed to Mr Griffith strongly, and before leaving Boston for New York Tuesday night he decided to carry it out. Meantime the Tremont Theatre management is unable to cope with the demand for seats at the play and has been obliged to put on the advance sale four weeks ahead, that is to say, tickets are now on sale for the third week in May.

Atlantic City, N. J.

VIVID SCENES IN BIRTH OF NATION

The scenes of reconstruction days in the South shown in D. W. Griffith's spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation" at the New Nixon, are of great historical value. Some of the most interesting are those showing the sessions of the South Carolina Legislature when that body was controlled by negroes. In the House there were 78 colored members with only 46 whites and of those 32 were Carpetbaggers and scalawags. It was as if society was turned upside down. In place of the control of the old aristocratic statesmen was the rule of the ignorant democracy that mankind ever witnessed. For a time barbarism had overcome civilization by the force of numbers.

CALLS IT A HURTFUL PLAY.

Booker T. Washington Says "The Birth of a Nation" Would Not Be Permitted in Southern Cities.

Boston, April 27.—Booker T. Washington, principal of the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute, has telegraphed his objection to "The Birth of a Nation," as folows:

"Have just returned from an educational campaign through Louisiana. Did not know 'The Birth of a Nation' was being played in Boston until very recently. From all I can hear it is a vicious and hurtful play. If it cannot be stopped it ought to be modified or changed materially. The best thing would be to stop it, as it can result in nothing but stirring up race prejudice in its present form in any of our southern cities. I am glad to hear that the people in Boston are against the play and hope their efforts to stop it will be successful. It is particularly unfortunate to have this play at the present time when we were entering upon an era of good racial feeling throughout the country, such as we have not experienced lately."

Boston, Mass Transcript

4 June 1915

GUARD "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Police Detail at Theatre—Negro Agitator Is Heckled on the Common

As a precautionary measure a detail of police was sent to the Tremont Theatre last evening and its appearance drew a large crowd. Only a few negroes were present, however, and some of them paraded silently back and forth in front of the theatre. Allen W. Whaley, a negro, who styles himself "a professor of human rights and education," made several brief speeches and finally led the way to the Common, where a crowd of nearly 2000 gathered. Whaley made a speech in which he attempted to assail Mayor Curley, but the crowd cheered so loudly as to drown his utterance. He then mentioned President Wilson and this led to further cheering. Finally four mounted officers drove the crowd back to the street. When the audience left the theatre there was no demonstration.

FILM CASE PUT OFF 8TH TIME.

"Birth of a Nation" Trial Now Set for May 3.

The eighth postponement of the hearing of the Liberty Theatre case involving the "Birth of a Nation" film, which is a dramatization of Thomas Dixon's novel "The Clansman," was granted by Magistrate Deuel in the Jefferson Market court yesterday at the request of James W. Osborne, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, which is the complainant.

A summons has been issued for D. W. Griffith and H. E. Aitken, managers of the film, to appear in court May 3, when it is hoped the case will reach the trial stage.

The case of Howard Schaelfe, charged with disorderly conduct at the same theatre in throwing old eggs at the screen and hitting members of the orchestra, will be heard on Tuesday.

The "Birth of a Nation."

CHICAGO, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of THE POST. Sir: In today's issue George Bowles, manager of "The Birth of a Nation," resents my recent criticism of what he calls "the supreme dramatic product of this country." No one doubts the artistic merit of the picture show, but the better it is as a work of art the worse is its influence in misrepresenting the facts of history. Mr. Bowles says "great educators, dangerous influence for intensifying racial prejudice now before the public.

The writer served in the army during the civil war with negro soldiers. A people who furnished 200,000 soldiers to save a government that had sanctioned their slavery, and who have made such wonderful progress in the half century of their freedom, and who are ambitious to be good citizens should be protected from insults.

If the play was called "The Clansmen" and advertised as a romance written by the negro-hating Thomas Dixon, and not pretending to represent actual history, it would be less offensive.

DUNCAN C. MILNER.

Boston, Mass Transcript

PICTURES AND MUSIC

Tremont—The Birth of a Nation

A FILMED spectacle of unusual magnitude and scope. The earlier reels unroll scenes and incidents from the Civil War—Sherman's march to the sea, the battle of Petersburg, Lee's surrender, and the assassination of Lincoln—on a scale of numbers, diversity and vividness new to motion pictures in America. Then follows a pictorial chronicle of conditions in the South during the days of Reconstruction, the carpet-baggers and Ku-Klux Clan, ranging from intimate domestic life to turbulent episode. Finally comes an apotheosis of the United States. Into all this is woven sentimental adventure between a soldier of the South and a woman of the North. Music accompanies the whole spectacle.

New York Times,

7 March 1915

NEGROES OBJECT TO FILM.

Say "Birth of a Nation" Characterizes Race Improperly.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is conducting a campaign against the feature picture, "The Birth of a Nation," based on Thomas Dixon's novel, "The Clansman," at the Liberty Theatre.

It was explained at the offices of the association, 70 Fifth Avenue, yesterday, that many protests had been received because of the characterization of the negro in the story. The association has the opinion of a number of prominent men who have condemned it, and today the Rev. Dr. Percy Stickney Grant and Rabbi Stephen S. Wise will preach against it, it is said.

So far the association has found no way to interfere with the film, which has been viewed by crowded houses at every projection.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

4 May 1915

PHOTOPLAY CONDEMNED

Colored Ministers, in Session, Protest Against "Birth of Nation"

Nearly 200 colored ministers at the concluding general sessions of the Delaware annual conference of the colored Methodist Episcopal Church in the Grace Memorial Church, 19th and Federal streets, yesterday unanimously condemned the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," said to deal with immoral phases of negro life. The ministers called upon the city and State authorities to prevent the pictures being shown, on the ground that it would "increase the prejudice of the white man." The conference also heard a strong plea for woman suffrage from Mrs. M. M. Griffin. Bishop B. T. Ruley presided. The conference will close today with an executive session.

Herald

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"Bi[illegible] Wins in Boston.

BOSTON, Mass., Wednesday.—Municipal Court Judge Thomas H. Dowd, before whom a delegation of negroes instituted legal proceedings to prohibit an exhibition of moving pictures of "The Birth of a Nation," tended to arouse rase prejudice, declined to-day to issue summonses for the proprietors and ruled that the pictures may be displayed if a certain scene is eliminated. He said:—"The element of race does not enter into the controversy for law knows no race nor creed in Massachusetts."

1915

NEGRO PROTESTER FINED

Allen W. Whaley, a Leader in "The Birth of a Nation" Agitation, Pays $5

Allen W. Whaley, who says he is a professor and who has been one of the prime movers in the negro protest against "The Birth of a Nation," appeared in the Municipal Court today, on a continued case, and paid a fine of $5 for speaking on the Common without a permit on June 4. He plead ed not guilty.

Ev Stand[illegible] Apr 21

The Boston Negroes who are protesting against "The Birth of the Nation" as an insult to and a misrepresentation of the colored race should be careful to deserve the respect which they believe is due them. Hissing "America" and "The Star Spangled Banner" is not the way to win sympathy for their cause.

"BIRTH OF A NATION" GIVEN O. K. BY CENSORS

Manager Homer George Takes Members of Board to Macon to See Performance.

Constitution 12-2-15

Atlanta's board of censors have place their O. K. on "The Birth of a Nation," which is to be shown at the Atlanta theater all next week with matinees each day after Monday. This is the famous $2 picture over which many divergent opinions have been expressed regarding its showing in the south.

In Atlanta a strong sentiment was worked up among those who had not seen the picture, for the most part, and protests were made to Mayor Woodward and the censors against its presentation here. Council passed a resolution asking the censors to give close study to the picture.

Being satisfied that the proper way to pass upon the merits or demerits of the spectacle was to see it as presented before an audience, the censors accepted an invitation from Manager Homer C. George to make a trip to Macon and view the picture. Accordingly Saturday afternoon W. L. Percy, J. W. Peacock, J. W. Mason and Councilman A. W. Farlinger went to Macon for that purpose.

Saturday night they attended the performance at the Grand theater. The house was packed and the picture was presented just as shown for ten months in New York.

Immediately at the close of the performance the censors hurried out among the audience and asked for expressions from hundreds, while listening to expressions from the vast majority of the crowd as it went home.

At the end of this time the committee went into executive session and after each had expressed himself and gave detailed reports on the manner in which the picture was received, they decided unanimously that the picture should be shown in Atlanta just as it was shown in Macon and just as it was shown elsewhere in the south and in New York. Accordingly the Atlanta will open with it Monday night.

This morning seats will be placed on sale for the picture and it looks as if the largest audience ever in the Atlanta will assemble Monday night. Manager Homer George states that he has received orders from out of town for more than 200 seats for that night.

Smith & Higgins are to take their

Negroes Protest Against Film.

A petition containing the names of 300 negroes of New York was sent last night to Gov. Whitman, as a protest against the continuation of the moving picture spectac[illegible], "The Birth of a Nation," which has been playing for some months at the Liberty Theatre. The petition, which asserts that the spectacle is a misrepresentation of a race and is likely to spread the germ of race hatred, was circulated by Cleveland G. Allen, No. 252 W[illegible] Fifty-third Street.

Embargo on "Birth of Nation" Off.

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 14.—Chancellor Walker, of New Jersey, this afternoon in Trenton granted an injunction prohibiting the city of Atlantic City, the Director of Public Safety and the chief of police from interfering in any way with the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" at the New Nixon Theater. The Director of Public Safety had issued orders that the picture could not be exhibited after Monday.

Race Problem — 1915

Moving Pictures

EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE SENDS DOCUMENTARY ARGUMENT

The Guardian 4/16/15

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, ETC., OF PREVENTION OF RACE PREJUDICE PLAY, "THE NIGGER," IN 3 CITIES, ESPECIALLY IN SPRINGFIELD, MASS., WHICH IS UNDER SOME STATUTE AS BOSTON—ALSO PREVENTION OF UNCLE TOM'S CABIN IN GEORGIA.

Nat. Indepen't Equal Rights League.
Headquarters, 49 Cornhill,
Boston, Mass., Apr. 8th, 1915.

His Honor, James M. Curley,
Mayor of Boston.

Dear Sir:—

We here subjoin certain documents as showing the need and justification for your Honor opposing the production in Boston of the photo-play, "Birth of a Nation," a Southern attack upon Boston, her moral leaders of the past generation and her grandest historical traditions, a perversion of American history, an effort to disparage all Colored Americans, the central purpose of which is to justify Southern repression of Colored people and to foment and to create in the white Northern people today racial antipathy against all the Colored people by an effective culminating series of graphic pictures of Colored men desiring to force white women to marry or else be raped.

Knowing that our home city of Boston will never again be for us what it is if this play is presented, that our white fellow citizens will never feel as friendly to us as they do now, all of which is against the morals of the community, we trust that you will not permit the play.

Yours against race prejudice,
W. W. THORNTON,
Chairman Exec. Committee.
W. M. TROTTER,
Secretary.

THE CRUX.

Mayor Curley seemed inclined to somewhat alter one bad scene, the rape scene, already altered to soften it, and only that. The plain inference was that this was all that would be done. He repeatedly said real objection was to that **one** scene. Mr. Trotter sought time and again to get a chance to state that the terrible injurious effect for Colored people would not be to any material extent removed by this alone. For the scene where the big, giant, educated Colored political leader, locked the delicate daughter of the Abolitionist in his room to force her by marriage secured by the aid of the Colored militia, to succumb, though unwilling, to his embraces and desires, carrying her into his bed-room, having her bound and gagged, and she the daughter of his friend the most radical abolitionist, fans the passions of the white men and hatred of white women even more. In fact it is dramatically staged and made the climax of Negro outrages, and the best justification of the lynching Ku Klux. The audience applaud the Klan and are worked into a perfect frenzy of applause and delirum and race hate.

So when the Mayor was stating what would have been agreed to if all sat in silence and Mr. Wilson and others were suggesting, Mr. Trotter was compelled to tell the Mayor openly that cutting the one act could not accomplish his and our purpose as against the play. It was either that, or be untrue, both to the Mayor and the Colored people, so he took his stand.

In fact most manly people hesitate to accept any compromise as the whole play is directed against us. Certainly no slight change should be accepted.

Rutland Vt

Herald

Not Designed to Deport Negroes.

With all due regard to the facts, most of the stuff written about the "object" of the bitterly attacked film, "The Birth of a Nation," is rubbish. The latest hectic allegation is that the film was made and designed for the purpose of furthering the deportation of negroes from this country.

This wonderful picture, in the opinion of those nearest the business of making such films for exhibition, is purely a commercial and artistic enterprise by D. W. Griffith, the big figure in the direction of film-making today. Whether it violates historical verity is a matter of opinion.

The exaggeration of the films for theatrical effect and the creation of suspense is admittedly one of their first faults. A labor film shows an impossibly cruel employer. A war [film] shows unspeakable atrocities. A political film shows one side of a question only.

So this historical film, the biggest thing ever accomplished in massing large bodies of men and horses in effective battle scenes, for example, makes the negro a trifle worse than he really is. This seems to be inevitable, and the indignation of the black folks is nothing more than one might expect.

At the same time, the fault is dramatic, not political, and there isn't the slightest reason to suppose that it was designed to further any such propaganda as the more excitable press suggests.

50 Negroes Pursue Champion of Film

Fifty negroes who went to the St. Paul city council chamber today to tell a commissioners' committee that the showing of the motion picture film, "The Birth of a Nation," would incite trouble, proved it by chasing a negro who favored the film down the corridors of the building and threatening to pummel him. The fugitive took refuge in an empty courtroom, where he was rescued by a squad of police.

The 50 negroes and several white people who championed their cause spoke against the further showing of the film in the St. Paul auditorium. T. L. Robinson, a negro employed by the firm that is showing the film, spoke in favor of it, saying that the negro race was not harmed by the picture. After his flight from the irate delegation, he left the building. The committee is to announce its decision tomorrow.

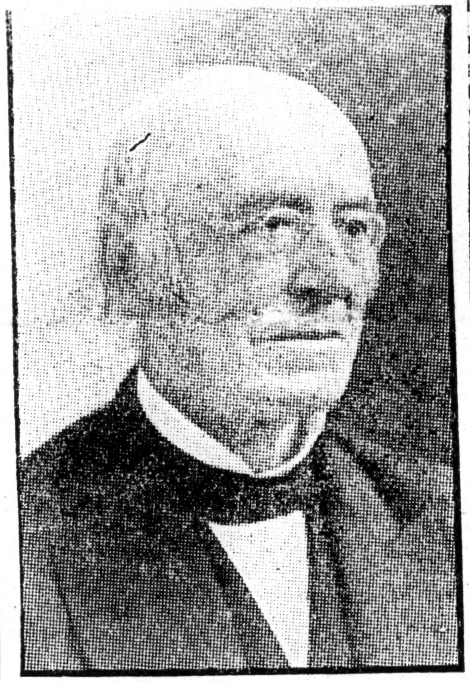
Boston, Mass.
APR 1 1915

AN INSULT TO AMERICANS

From all accounts the colossal moving picture spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," now showing in New York, is in its essentials a gross and gratuitous insult to a large body of American citizens, the negroes. The New York World has denounced it unsparingly and other papers have protested it.

The objectionable parts are scenes depicting the negro, especially of "reconstruction" times, as a degraded and bestial being, devoid of honor or decency. His failings—or rather the failings of some—are magnified and his patience, his unutterable woes, the savage treatment of him in slavery are all absent from the screen. Surely he has right to justice in such a show as this.

The worst feature of the thing is that it inevitably inspires hatred of the whole colored race in the hearts of those who see it. It is no wonder that many influential citizens, colored and white, have protested to Mayor Mitchel against the offensive pictures, which Rabbi Wise calls "an indescribably foul and loathsome libel." They should be expunged forthwith.



WM. LLOYD GARRISON

Boston's Great Abolitionist—This Moral Hero whose work for Colored Race is an honor to Boston so She erects him a statue, who is personally pictured and sneered at in "Birth of a Nation," and his work Flouted.

The Amsterdam News 4/14/15

Proclaiming His Belief in Fair Play, Fearless Manuscript Reader, Showing Disgust, Is Promptly Arrested—In Court Thursday Morning Case Was Postponed to Later Date.

As Thomas Dixon's moving picture drama, "The Birth of a Nation," was being shown on Wednesday night in the Liberty Theatre, a whistle blew in the gallery and a plucky young man sprang up and opened up a rapid fire of rotten eggs at the screen.

Not an egg hit the screen, but they did terrible execution among the orchestra players. The musicians beat a hasty retreat, with eggs bursting among them, and splotches of malodorous gluey yellow showing on dress suits.

Occupants of the seats in the first few rows looking around to see the cause of the disturbance became panic-stricken at the sight of the aged "hen fruit" sailing in their general direction.

The management of the theatre has expected trouble since the film was first put on, and, in preparation, employed private detectives. These rushed upon the "cannoneer" and dragged him to the street, where they turned him over to the police. After being taken to the West Thirty-seventh street station, where the young man gave his name as Howard Schaeffle and his address as No. 123 Washington place, he was sent to the Men's Night Court, where Magistrate Ten Eyck held him in $500 bail, charg-

ing disorderly conduct, for further examination Thursday morning in the Jefferson Market Court.

The young man appeared in court Thursday morning and Counsellor Thomas had the hearing on the case postponed to a later date.

Schaeffle explained that he was a lover of liberty, and that the pictures aroused his ire "through their injustice to the colored race." He said he was a reporter and manuscript reader. James C. Thomas, Jr., 89 West 134th street, volunteered his service to defend Schaffler. Thomas was in the theatre when the bombardment started.

NEW YORK CALL
April 1915

PROTESTS AGAINST "BIRTH OF A NATION."

Editor of The Call:

Why have readers of The Call not raised their voices in protest against the picture, "Birth of a Nation"?

My first act upon getting into New York was to see this picture, and now I am protesting to the right, the left, and all around me. Why cannot those of you that believe in and live in the spirit of fair play protest with me and the few other feeble voices that are heard?

A more outrageous yet cunningly devised piece of slander and breeder of race prejudice I have rarely come across.

All that is hateful in the Negro, just freed from slavery, is pictured most minutely, while the many things that have caused the breeding of this hatred are not even hinted at.

The white South is angelic; the Negro is all that is mean and devilish.

Why not see the picture, then write letters of protest to the Mayor and the National Board of Censors?

In the name of decency, get together and strike a blow for our colored sisters and brothers. Goodness knows their struggles are many, their battle harder than ours. We have only our economic masters to fight, while they must fight these and the haters of their race.

Their blood is as red as ours, and if we possess souls, why, who can prove to me that souls are possessed of different colors?

See the picture, then write your letters, and, to add your supreme protest, join the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, 70 Fifth avenue. Two dollars a year (less than 4 cents a week), which includes a year's subscription to an excellent magazine, the Crisis.

Sincerely,
VERNE E. SHERIDAN.
Brooklyn, N. Y.

CHICAGO JUDGE ALLOWS "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Special to The New York Age.

The New York Age 6/10/15

CHICAGO, ILL., June 8.—On Saturday, June 5, Judge William Fenimore Cooper of the Superior Court, granted a temporary injunction restraining Mayor William Hale Thompson and other city officials from interfering with the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" at the Illinois Theatre. The play opened Saturday, June 5.

RECORD CROWD SEES 'BIRTH OF A NATION'

Atlantic City Authorities Criticised for Attempt to Stop Photoplay

From Public Ledger Bureau

ATLANTIC CITY, Aug. 15. — Sharp criticism of resort authorities who yielded to demands of protesting colored citizens and summarily ordered the closing of a Boardwalk theatre is the latest development in the "Birth of a Nation" agitation which stirred the city last week.

One of the largest crowds that has yet visited the New Nixon Theatre since the "Birth of a Nation" was billed there filled the big playhouse tonight and marveled over the realistic production with its inspiring music.

Harry Brown, manager of the playhouse, said there was no likelihood of any trouble. Hotelmen, he said, have given the production strong indorsement, and since the agitation began have assured him of their belief it would be a politic mistake to permit any class in the city to dictate the kind of amusement to be provided for visitors.

PICTURE PLAY IS BANNED BY MAYOR

Production of "The Nigger" Forbidden; Protest by Negro League.

Mayor Stacy issued a mandate yesterday to the management of Fox's Theater that it should not produce the motion picture play, "The Nigger," as the result of personal investigation and a letter from the Negro Civic League of Springfield protesting against the showing of this picture on the ground that it tended to foster race hatred.

The Mayor has received word from other cities that the production of the picture had been forbidden and he also had a newspaper clipping from an Augusta (Ga.) paper in which it was alleged that the Mayor and citizens of that city had been fooled into taking part in the picture under the belief that it was of another nature.

The Mayor said yesterday that there are enough good pictures available without putting on such as tend to arouse class feeling and engender race hatred.

"The theaters of Springfield are going to be kept clean during my administration and I shall see to it that pictures of such a nature or of a kind that are not of good tone are eliminated here," said the Mayor. "The Police Commission of Providence, R. I., recently issued a mandate that any picture that tended to reflect on the character of the colored people should not be allowed.

"Pictures of this character tend to hurt the cause of good government and tend to stir up race prejudice. For that reason I shall forbid the display of such pictures in the theaters of Springfield."

Following is the letter from the Negro Civic League:

Springfield, Mass., April 3, 1915.

Hon. Frank E. Stacy.

My Dear Mr. Mayor: As American citizens having a deep and abiding love and loyalty for our country, as exponents of equity, opportunity and fair play for all, and desirous of promoting amity and concord between all classes and all races rather than appealing to passion, fomenting hatred and inciting to strife, we, take this occasion to call to your official notice a photo-play billed for this week at Fox's Theater entitled "The Nigger."

It may not be necessary for us to remind you that the book from which this play is taken is already tabooed by many of the public libraries as unfit for literary or mental consumption. As we see it there is no situation calling for such a play. It teaches no moral and its only purpose and accomplishment engender race hatred and possibly disturb the quiet order of the day.

Therefore, as citizens and members of this community, we appeal to you in the interest of justice and continued good will among men to use your official power and influence to see to it that this objectionable and offensive play is not put into operation in this city.

Anxiously awaiting your action in the matter, we beg to remain,

Very respectfully,
NEGRO CIVIC LEAGUE,
BRUCE T. BOWENS, Secretary.

Boston Advertiser

5 April 1915

ASK MAYOR FOR HEARING ON "THE BIRTH OF NATION"

Claim Motion Picture Play Engenders Race Hatred

A public hearing on the question of the presentation in Boston of the motion picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," has been asked of Mayor Curley. The request comes from the Boston branch of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This association passed resolutions saying that the film engendered race hatred, and was a libel on the negro race. The resolutions have been signed by prominent Bostonians, including Francis J. Garrison and Rev. Horace Bumstead. The play is based on Rev. Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman," and deals with the reconstruction period after the Civil War.

Among the resolutions passed by the Society for the Advancement of the Colored Race was this one, which was sent to the Mayor:—

"My Dear Sir: At a meeting of the board of directors of Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, held today, the enclosed resolution was unanimously adopted requesting a hearing for the purpose of opposing the production of "The Birth of a Nation" in Boston. And I respectfully request that such a hearing be granted at some early date prior to April 10, 1915."

FROM TRAVELER READERS

Protests "Birth of a Nation."

To the Editor of The Traveler:

The audacious attempt to portray by moving pictures a dramatic caricature and libel which was forbidden representation years ago in Boston, Philadelphia and other cities should be promptly confronted and defeated. "The Birth of a Nation," which is being so lavishly advertised and exploited, is unequivocally condemned by expert sociologists like Frederic C. Howe, commissioner of immigration; Miss Lilian D. Walsh, Rabbi Stephen S. Wise and other prominent New Yorkers, who declare that its portrayal of the Negro as a lustful, degraded creature is a "cruel, vindictive and untrue degradation of a part of the country's citizenship," certain to stir up race prejudice and inciting to breaches of the peace. Their protests and the dignified appeal made by representative colored citizens of New York so impressed Mayor Mitchel that he required certain scenes to be cut out. Boston should go farther and forbid altogether the production of so gross and scandalous a misrepresentation. Mayor Curley cannot hesitate as to his duty in the matter. FRANCIS J. GARRISON.

Boston, April 4.

MAYOR MRAVLAG ORDERS AGENT OUT OF OFFICE

Special to The New York Age.

[illegible], April [illegible].—Because of political differences in the campaign when a delegation of prominent colored citizens called on Mayor Victor Mravlag to protest against the showing of "The Nigger" in moving pictures, The Age correspondent was singled out by the mayor and ordered to leave his office. To avoid prejudicing the committee's chances, the correspondent gracefully retired.

The delegation included every colored minister of the city with the exception of the Rev. J. H. Freeman, of the Siloam Presbyterian Church, who had a previous engagement.

NEGROES PROTEST BIRTH OF NATION BEING SHOWN HERE

City Commission Asked to Prevent Presentation of Film at Grand

Advertiser 1/30-16

Dr. W. F. Watkins appeared before the city commissioners yesterday to protest against the exhibition of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," which is scheduled to appear at the Grand Theatre in this city in February.

On next Tuesday, at the regular meeting of the City Commission, a delegation from the Negro Business Men's League will address the commission in an endeavor to prohibit the film being shown in Montgomery.

Dr. Watkins asserts that a number of scenes in the photodrama stimulate race hatred, and on Tuesday, he stated, he will have data from a number of cities as to the condition that existed there following the exhibition of the film.

Inflaming Race Resentment

OF COURSE, the more disturbance there is at the doors of a local film theatre, where a drama offensive to the colored population is being presented, the better advertised the play will be and the larger the receipts at the box office. Instead of trying to inflame their congregations to protest, the pastors of colored churches would do well to ignore a performance whose success they assure by instigating riot. There is no quarrel between the races, which have entered into a tacit agreement to work out their destinies side by side; and every event that accentuates friction and artificially foments a disturbance is mischievous. What is founded upon erroneous tenets and theses in any form of art must perish in time by its own falsity; and it is as true of the drama as of any other form of literature that every life has in itself the seeds of decay. The policy to pursue for those who wish to drive a picture play from the stage or a novel from the bookstalls is to let it severely alone, that it may starve itself to death from sheer neglect.

Negro Protesters Pay $5 Fines

The eight negroes who were arrested in front of the Tremont Theatre recently while taking part in a "promenade" protest against "The Birth of a Nation," were each fined $5 in the Municipal Court yesterday, and all paid. They were accused of sauntering and loitering. Those fined were Everland Washington, Miss Pevin W. Jones, Mrs. Jane Posey, Mrs. Estelle E. Hill, Jacob K. Johnson, Augustus Granville, Carl T. Pim and James Kingsley.

OBJECTIONABLE FILM PLAY IS CENSORED

Schenectady, N. Y., May 5.—Prompt action by a delegation of colored citizens, headed by the Rev. J. C. Temple, brought about the elimination of objectionable features from the photoplay, "The Nigger," presented at the local theatre Monday, April 26.

On protesting to the mayor against the film, that official, after a courteous hearing, suggested that a committee attend the matinee performance and point out the objectionable scenes. The suggestion was accepted. The committee consisted of the Rev. J. C. Temple, Joseph P. Smith, Mrs. Barnett and Principal Whitney of the high school, with two prominent citizens selected by the mayor.

A conference was had with the local manager of the theatre and all the features objected to by the committee were eliminated.

15 September 1916

LAW ON FILM PLAY

City Solicitor Ryan Replies to Opponents of "Birth of a Nation."

Another effort to halt the presentation of the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," by administrative action is not likely to prove successful. City Solicitor Ryan has rendered a review of the two acts that might be enforced to comply with the request upon complaint by G. Edward Dickerson, counsel for a committee of negro citizens. Director Porter originally decided that the show would not be permitted. A temporary injunction was granted the management of the exhibition by Judge Ferguson, in consequence of a permanent injunction granted in Allegheny county in favor of the same film, ignoring the right of the municipal authorities to interfere because the act of May 15, 1915, creates a Board of Censors having full jurisdiction.

Dickerson's point is that the act of 1913 provides for an inquiry into the exhibition that might, among other things, have a tendency to produce a harmful effect on the public at large, and, if the charges are proven, prevent the production. He says no such inquiry was made. Mr. Ryan suggests that if there is a desire to prevent the showing of the film, the first step would be to make application for a dissolution of the injunction and have decided the question whether in the creation of the State Board of Censors of moving picture films, the rights of the city officials to censor its theatres and moving picture shows, have been superseded.

Mr. Ryan also suggests the granting of the injunction preceded the showing of the films, whereas the exhibition has actually been given many times and an opportunity afforded of passing upon the question of its harmful tendencies as inducing disorder or violence. "What action should be taken by you," says Mr. Ryan, "in the manner prescribed by law, if any, is a question properly appealing to your discretion."

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

NEW YORK M'G TELEGRAPH

September 1915

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION" TOO INTERESTING TO HISS

(Special Dispatch to The Morning Telegraph.)

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 7.

Several hundred negroes mapped out a plan last night for showing their disapproval of "The Birth of a Nation," which is being displayed at the Forest Theatre. They paraded on South Broad street from South to Sansom streets, and started a hissing demonstration inside the theatre.

The police broke up the parade by drawing a cordon across Broad street and ordering the negroes to walk on the pavement. At the theatre the ticket seller did not give them seats in a crowd, but scattered them over the rear of the house.

Once seated, the majority of the negroes became so interested that they forgot all about their plan. About a dozen or more, however, remembered to hiss when the organization of the Ku Klux Klan was depicted. About thirty detectives and plainclothes men had been waiting for something of the sort. They grabbed the hissers by their coat collars and projected them outside, where the police hurried them away.

G. A. R. Veteran Approves Of "Birth of a Nation"

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

April 28 I attended the matinee exhibition of "The Birth of a Nation." I was aware of the criticism and the present efforts made by a certain class for its suppression, hence I gave very careful attention to all its phases and details. I feel moved, therefore, to express an opinion thereon through the newspaper that I have read more or less, and respected all the time for its integrity and independence, for more than 50 years.

I am now past 76 years of age; enlisted early in the Civil War and served till the close. I followed and observed the reconstruction period closely and I believe I can judge from personal experience and from what I know. Therefore I say that the pictorial presentment, "The Birth of a Nation," is a very accurate and realistic portrayal of events as they actually occurred.

Once during the war I was captured, but fortunately held as prisoner for only a short time. I had a fine opportunity to talk with the Confederate soldiers about the war, its causes, politics North and South and other relative matters. I believe I apprehended the "general make-up" and views of the Southern man pretty accurately.

I also saw a great many "contrabands"—escaped negroes of both sexes and all ages—and could study them at close hand. If they owed a moral debt, it was to misfortune; they were not to blame, because they were like children, ignorant, impulsive, without discipline or self control, utterly unfit to have and use the elective franchise, or to aid or direct in anyway the political rehabilitement of the South in such a period. Nor were they so much to blame for the maladministration of affairs in the South as one narrow-minded, bigoted man—Andrew Johnson, President by catastrophe—and his political aiders and abettors, who put unused powers into the hands of negroes and exploited them with disastrous consequences. The K. K. K. was the inevitable and logical result of vicious class legislation in the South by white "carpet-baggers" and ignorant irresponsible negroes.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a true presentment of those times. The present generation knows but little of that important period of our nation's history. Out of sight, out of mind." Should we not be freshly reminded from time to time, "lest we forget?" How better teach and re-enforce these lessons than by moving pictures? How better learn to profit by past mistakes and learn new lessons of patriotism, self control hatred of wrongs, political, social and industrial?

There is much of the past that should cause us shame and regret. We New England people might be shown in moving pictures the history of the Salem witchcraft craze and delusion, and the, to us, incomprehensible doings of those narrow-minded, bigoted, but honest, ancestors of ours. We are, and should be, ashamed of it and them, but I truly believe we should tolerate, even approve, a moving picture history of that period and its salutary lessons without "kicking." I don't believe we would petition the Legislature to stop the show; it would be class legislation; and such legislation as now asked for by an unrepresentative minority would put the moving picture show out of business.

The last scene shows pictures and statistics to show the great advance made by the negroes in every desirable way since the Civil War. They should be proud of it and glad to see it portrayed in the moving picture medium. But it is necessary to show their early unlovely, brutal, but unfortunate conditions as newly freed slaves to teach by contrast what any freed people can do.

Judging from the audience which completely filled Tremont Theatre yesterday afternoon and its hearty and frequent manifestations of approval, I should say that a very large majority of the people approve of the presentment, "Birth of a Nation." If it depended on their vote, the objectors wouldn't have "any case in court."

Everett. C. F. LOTHROP.

N. Y. PUTS BAN ON "AFRICAN DODGER"

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Albany, N. Y., April 23.—Senator Gilchrist's "ball dodger" bill has passed the Senate and is now a law. This announcement should fill every self-respecting Afro-American's heart with joy, for it means that the obnoxious, "African dodger" will no longer be the cause of insult to the race at summer parks. The bill makes it a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of $100 to throw a baseball at an Afro-American's head. Chicago and other cities that complain of the same trouble should get busy.

REP. CROSS SCORES NEGROES FOR ASKING SOLONS NOT TO SEE "BIRTH OF NATION"

Rep. Fred W. Cross of the first Worcester district has sent an open letter to Butler R. Wilson of 34 School st., in which he takes issue with the colored persons who have opposed the production of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation."

Mr. Cross states that he believes the colored people of Boston are supersensitive, and not at all alive to the true import of the situation, because there is not a single reflection cast on the character of the colored people of the North.

He says further that the drama deals with an historic episode, and, although it may be as distasteful to the colored race as the persecution of the Quakers and witchcraft is to New Englanders, it is a matter of actual history and cannot be denied.

He takes the negroes to task for requesting the members of the Legislature not to inspect the film, and says that they might just as well request a jury not to visit the scene of a crime.

Boston, Mass.

APR 8 1915

HISS PRESIDENT WILSON AT RACE FILM HEARING

Boston Colored Citizens Jeer at Mention of Cabinet Viewing "The Birth of a Nation"—Can Bar It Only If Obscene, Says Curley.

Boston colored citizens, to the number of more than 200, hissed President Wilson and the members of his cabinet when they were mentioned at the hearing yesterday afternoon in the old aldermanic chamber at City Hall to determine if the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," in which Negroes figure prominently, should be permitted to be shown in this city. The hearing was granted by Mayor Curley, following a flood of protests which swept in upon the announcement of the forthcoming presentation of the film here.

The mayor, after hearing the arguments and protests against the showing of the photoplay, and presenting contradictory evidence, decided that "The Birth of a Nation" should have at least one presentation, after which it would be up to Official Censor Casey and the police censor to determine if it should be barred or permitted to run.

The hearing yesterday was one of the most sensational gatherings of its kind ever held in Greater Boston. The demonstration occurred after Atty. John F. Cusick had brought out the fact that the President and his cabinet had viewed a performance of the much-discussed film, and had expressed their satisfaction. So strong was the feeling of those present that hissing followed this announcement. Patrolmen helped to restore order, and Mayor Curley had to rap with his gavel to restore quiet.

Among those who appeared at the hearing to voice their protest against the photoplay were some of Boston's most prominent clergy and citizens, including the Rev. Alexander Mann, the Rev. Horace Bumstead, Moorfield Storey and Dr. Charles Fleischer. They asked the mayor to refuse permission to have the film shown at the Tremont Theatre, beginning next Saturday, saying it would be a detriment to the Negro race, causing hatred and race feeling. To refute these assertions Mr. Cusick introduced evidence to show that "The Birth of a Nation" had been commended by the chief justice of the United States and other members of this body, more than ten members of the United States Senate and prominent representatives of the press at the national capital, and that the film, instead of being degrading, was of especial educational, instructive and moral value.

Most of the protesters based their argument on three scenes in the production. The first scene to which objection was taken, according to Butler R. Wilson, who was chief spokesman for the protestants, is where a Negro is seen chasing a young white girl up a cliff. At the end, to escape his clutches, she throws herself into an abyss. The second scene objected to is that of a colored Lieutenant-Governor in a southern state who ties a young white girl to a chair and gags her because of her refusal to marry him, the final portion of the scene being where the girl is carried by the assailant into an adjoining bedroom. The third objection was to a scene during the civil war, wherein a father, mother and daughter, with two Union soldiers, are seen defending their home against a horde of Negroes. In the final scene of this part of the production the father is seen holding a revolver against his daughter's head as the Negroes storm the house.

The first opponent to the picture was Miss Mary White Ovington, a settlement worker, who said she had twice viewed the picture, and had heard persons in the audience voice their indignation at Negroes in general. Questioned by the mayor as to her knowledge of Shakespeare, Miss Ovington admitted having seen Lady Macbeth after she had killed her husband, but said the expression on her face was by no means "as awful as that of Gus," the Negro who pursues the girl in "The Birth of a Nation." She also said, in answer to a query from the mayor, that the expression on the face of Shylock, in "The Merchant of Venice," was not nearly so horrible as that on the face of the Negro as portrayed.

Explaining the scene where the father is aiming a revolver at his daughter's head, the mayor said it was done to save her from immorality. An opponent mentioned the fact that in the picture a Negro was flogged, to which Mayor Curley quickly replied that even now, in the state of Delaware, men are flogged, sometimes for petty larceny.

The mayor cited the play "Richelieu," in which the cardinal declares, before all present, his intention of committing an immoral act. "This play has never been stopped," the mayor said, "yet you want this moving picture barred, and so far you have failed to produce evidence that it is indecent or immoral."

Charges Politics.

Moorfield Storey, former president of the American Bar Association, charged that the picture was for political pur-

poses and was to discredit the Negro all over the country. Mayor Curley said the English might just as reasonably enter a protest against Shakespeare, after which he read a letter from an Episcopal clergyman who described the protested picture as wonderful.

An arraignment of "The Clansman," from which the photo-play is taken, was made by the Rev. Dr. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity Church. "Vindictive," "damaging to American citizenship," and "hurtful to the colored race," were some of his charges against the book. Joseph Prince Loud, a Boston architect, who witnessed the photoplay in New York, criticised the activities of the "Klu Klux Klan" and other illicit bodies of the South after the civil war, which are portrayed in the picture.

Others who spoke in opposition to the film were William Munroe Trotter, editor of the Guardian, and Dr. Francis H. Rowley of the M. S. P. C. A.

Defends Film.

John F. Cusick, attorney for the photoplay company, said the picture demonstrates to the public what they are now enjoying in the way of civilization as compared with that period immediately following the civil war. He produced the official report of the national board of censorship, which read:

"Educational value, excellent; artistic value, excellent; entertainment value, excellent; moral effect, good." This, Cusick said, is the highest rating given by the national board for a production. The report of the board, the attorney said, also read: "Educationally, dramatically and artistically this should prove a great step forward in motion-picture productions." Continuing, Cusick said:

"The first production of this photoplay was in the White House, before President Wilson and the members of his cabinet. They declared it wonderful." At these words the hissing began, and it was more than a minute before order was restored. Upon the statement of Cusick that the supreme court judges and representatives of the press had indorsed the picture, the hissing was resumed.

After asserting that the greatest "villains" in "The Birth of a Nation" were whites, Cusick introduced David W. Griffith, who wrote the scenario and produced the play. He produced letters from Catholic clergymen and other prominent members of the cloth, and instructors in New York, in which the photoplay was praised, and he, personally, commended for his work.

Upon being asked by the mayor if he would eliminate the scene showing Gus, the Negro, pursuing the white girl, he said he would if it were insisted upon. The mayor then said he did not want to make political capital out of the affair, and decided that the picture should be produced in its original form at a trial performance Friday night. He said he would have the official censors present, and if it was determined that the photoplay violated the law it would be stopped. Concluding, he said:

"You people have stated your case. You have introduced no evidence that I could use in stopping at least one performance."

Baltimor. MD American

1 May 1915

WILSON NOT FOR NEGRO FILM

But Picture of Clansman Type Was Shown in White House.

Washington, April 30.—W. H. Lewis, a Boston negro and former assistant attorney general of the United States, and Bishop Alexander Walters, of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Jersey, called at the White House today to inquire about reports that President Wilson had given his endorsement to a moving picture film depicting scenes during the reconstruction period in the South, in a manner distasteful to negroes.

Secretary Tumulty showed them a letter to Representative Thatcher, of Massachusetts, saying that while the film was once shown at the White House as a courtesy to a former classmate of the President's, the President was unaware of its character and has at no time expressed any approbation of it.

Colored Citizens to Meet for Protest Monday Night

A mass meeting under the auspices of the Newark and Orange branches of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People will be held in the Thirteenth Avenue Presbyterian Church Monday evening. Rev. E. F. Eggleston is pastor of this church.

Prominent speakers are promised, and the purpose of the gathering is set forth in the circulars issued in these terms: "All loyal race lovers are urged to attend this meeting, and by their presence protest against the attending evil which tends to stir up race hatred."

The chief protest will be against the moving picture play, "Birth of a Nation," which will continue this and next week.

NEGROES AT WHITE HOUSE IN PROTEST ON "MOVIE"

Ask if President Indorsed Reconstruction Scene Film

WASHINGTON, April 30. — W. H. Lewis, a Boston negro who was formerly Assistant Attorney General of the United States, and Bishop Alexander Walters, of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, of New York, called at the White House today to inquire about reports that President Wilson had given his indorsement to a moving picture film depicting scenes during the reconstruction period in the South, in a manner distasteful to negroes.

Secretary Tumulty showed them a letter to Representative Thatcher, of Massachusetts, saying that while the film was once shown at the White House as a courtesy to a former classmate of the President's, the President was unaware of its character and has at no time expressed any approbation of it.

TO PROTEST FILM PLAY.

Wendell Phillips Memorial Association Will Conduct Mass Meeting Tomorrow in Faneuil Hall.

To protet against the production of "The Birth of a Nation" and to set forth another view of the Reconstruction period, the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association, which perpetuates the spirit of Northern abolitionism, will hold a mass meeting of colored and white citizens at 3 p m tomorrow in Faneuil Hall.

Frank B. Sanborn of Concord will preside, and the speakers will include Joseph C. Manning, a former member of the Alabama Legislature, Rolfe Cobleigh of the Congregationalist, Michael J. Jordan of the United Irish League, Rev Francis H. Rowley of the Humane Society, Dr A. P. Russell Jr and William D. Brigham, secretary of the association.

"BIRTH OF A NATION" DENOUNCED

Vitriolic Editorial from Kansas City, Mo., Leading Daily.

Says Photo-Play Designed to Arouse Contempt of Whites Against Blacks.

The Kansas City Times, the leading daily paper in the state of Missouri in its issue of October 26th, published an editorial on the "Birth of a Nation." It was this widely read and influential paper's estimate of Thomas Dixon's motion picture play adapted from his novel called the "Clansman." "The Times" regrets that Kansas City is compelled to suffer from the evil effects inevitable from the production of the picture in that city. Here is the editorial comment of this great metropolitan daily:

"It is a wonderful spectacle, this 'Birth of a Nation,' that is showing in motion pictures in Kansas City this week; a scenic marvel. And yet what is to be thought of an author who would deliberately bring all the resources of his art to bear on a spectacle founded on race hatred? Who would seek popularity by inflaming the worst passions of the human heart?

"The South went through some wretched and terrible experiences in the reconstruction period. Mr. Dixon has picked out and invented some dramatic and revolting episodes and made them typical. In doing this he has succeeded in picturing the Negro as wholly degraded and bestial, with unlimited possibilities of evil.

"Although he expressly disavows any application to the conditions of today, the whole tendency of the book and the motion picture drama is to arouse loathing and contempt of whites against blacks. The applause which the pictures evoke shows the intensity of the feeling.

"At best the dramatized version of 'The Clansman' is bound to aggravate a problem that is bad enough with no additional complications. So far as Kansas City is concerned, it would help if the play could be still further censored, and if applause could be done away with altogether as it is in the case of war films."

"The Birth of a Nation."

Constitution 12-2-15

(From The Charlotte (N. C.) Observer.)

The Observer had made up its mind that when the somewhat notable production by Mr. D. W. Griffith, to which he gave the name of "The Birth of a Nation," should come this way, advantage would be taken of the opportunity to give it inspection with the main purpose of locating the cause of the objection that has been made against its production by what Griffith's old mammy would call the "stuck-up niggers in de north." We could find none. As the birth of the play, itself, Griffith, who had been reading the rough-hewn production of Mr. Thomas Dixon, saw in it the possibilities for a great drama for the screen, based on experiences in the south during reconstruction days.

He has succeeded in the reproduction of southern incidents that is so wonderfully true in conception and presentation as to make one feel actually in the presence of living personalities of past days in the south. Even the two love stories with which the play picture is threaded are but typical of hundreds that were identified with the war history of the south and the north. The introduction of the negro into the United States is succeeded by a glimpse of ante-bellum life in the south, this being followed by a sufficiency of war life to give knowledge of the character of the strife. In turn that is followed by the tragedies of government at Washington out of which there comes a graphic understanding of how the turmoil of reconstruction days was precipitated on the newly-desolated people of the south, all full of incident, graphic as it is true, and of presentation, my masters!—in manner that stirs the emotions of the soul.

The prominence given the Ku Klux Klan is the bone around which the northern lovers of the negro contend, but it is through the operations of this organization and the vivid presentation of the causes that necessitated its creation, that the situation in the south can be best made of understanding. The Griffith production but establishes facts in history that justified the organization of the Ku Klux. The best that was in the life of the negro in the south—and there was much of that—is brought out, as well as the worst, and one scene is devoted with tremendous realism to the ever-living terror of The Menace. O Heart of the South! Even in that scene the full agony was not depicted, for of the hundreds less fortunate than the little pet of the family, in that there was for them no merciful escape by death, there was no pictured reminder. The Birth of a Nation is but a bit of past history in picture. The colored people of the present time may draw from it a contrast in conditions vastly to their credit. They have no responsibility for the nation that is dead. They are playing their part in the nation whose birth Griffith has pictured, and in the south they are moving forward to conditions of happiness and prosperity in the encouragement of which endeavor Southern environment never before contributed a more helpful part.

NEGROES OBJECT TO 'BIRTH OF A NATION'

Committee Asks Council for Strict Censorship of Film

A protest against showing "The Birth of a Nation," considered without question to be the world's masterpiece in moving pictures, which is billed to appear next week at the Lyceum theater, a committee of negroes from the Negro Businness Men's league waited upon the council, in caucus yesterday afternoon. Appeals to forbid the showing of the pictures were made by Dr. J. R. A. Crossland, Rev. G. L. Prince, Rev. William McGray and Dr. W. S. Carrion.

They were referred to the city ordinance regulating moving pictures, which made the chief of police the censor of all pictures. The committee visited Dr. U. G. Crandell, president of the board of police coommissioners, and Chief of Police J. A. Clouser.

Objection was raised by the committee to the display of conditions which existed during the reconstruction period. They feared there would be outbreaks of race hatred, inspired by the photoplay. Violence has occurred, according to the committee, in several other cities during the time the pictures were being shown, and it is believed by them that any trouble would be prevented by having a strict censorship made of "The Birth of a Nation."

The protest made by the negroes is the third to be made concerning censorship of pictures in St. Joseph. A committee of the Federation of Woman's Clubs of this city is working on a model ordinance. Following the release "Hypocrites," members of the Catholic church have submitted the ordinance in effect in Chicago, as a model for new regulations in St. Joseph.

ST. PAUL BARS "BIRTH OF NATION"

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Minneapolis, Minn., Nov. 12.—Following close on the decision in the Hennepin county district court, which resulted in stopping the production of "The Birth of a Nation" at the Shubert theater after tomorrow night, the St. Paul city commission today revoked the license for the presentation of the film there.

"The Birth of a Nation" has been showing at the St. Paul Auditorium for two weeks. When the license was issued there was a promise to cut out certain features that were objected to by Negroes. These objectionable features were not cut out, according to members of the St. Paul commission.

It was on the grounds of a violation of the promises made that the film was barred in St. Paul.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Such Perverted History as the Attack on Thaddeus Stevens Should Be Suppressed

To the Editor of Public Ledger:

Sir—It is late to add one more protest to the number of criticisms of the moving picture play "The Birth of a Nation," already made by such eminent Philadelphians as Joseph Pennell and Dr. W. W. Keen. Had I seen the play earlier, this communication would have been sent before this. The purpose of the play is to impress upon another generation an inaccurate and harmful conception of an epoch. This purpose has been carried out with considerable cunning in the appeal to sentiment and with so great an elaboration of detail as to suggest that capital for the purpose has been furnished by persons interested in presenting to the public this false conception of the reconstruction period. The banal sentimentalities of the letter explanations are entirely in keeping with the general purpose. The wrong attempted to be done is not made less, but greater by the excellence of many of the pictures shown.

Intelligent persons unfamiliar with the events of the period, who wish a juster conception of the occurrences of the time may turn to the Congressional reports, embracing the sworn testimony of many witnesses, to books like Powell Clayton's lately published "The Aftermath of the Civil War in Arkansas," to Judge Tourgee's novel, "A Fool's Errand," and the biography of Thaddeus Stevens.

In a properly constituted, self-respecting community, the vulgar travesty of the character of the able, virile, honest Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, leader of the National House of Representatives, would not have been tolerated. In the South a moving picture showing Jefferson Davis in the act of fleeing from his captors in the disguise of a woman's dress would not be permitted. Persons attempting to perpetuate the story, a story with as much foundation of fact as the story now attempted to be fastened upon Thaddeus Stevens, would be driven out of the town or shot. Nothing but a community flabbiness of mind has tolerated the attack upon Thaddeus Stevens' reputation, an attack made in a cowardly way, because while the wig, the facial suggestion, the club foot, the political position and the place of his home are all given, the name is disguised. The city and State authorities should have forbidden so gross and dishonest a vilification of the great political leader who represented faithfully the attitude of the men who had preserved the Union and overthrown slavery by frustrating the efforts of Louisiana and other Southern States to restore a form of African slavery.

The idea that any different laws or any other form of government would have prevented the disturbances following the war of the Rebellion is a shallow one, because these disturbances grew out of a condition of society. As late as 1868 30 per cent. of the white voters of Arkansas could not write their names. Happily, the time came when a measure of order was restored and then an officer of the Union Army in the President's chair, one of the best of our Presidents, Rutherford B. Hayes, removed the army and the Southern States were left to govern themselves. ISAAC R. PENNYPACKER.

Ardmore, Pa., October 13, 1915.

DIXON WINS IN NEW BEDFORD

INFAMOUS "BIRTH OF A NATION" PLAY PERMITTED BY MAYOR ASHLEY — PROTEST HEARING CONDUCTED BY B. R. WILSON OF BOSTON FAILS AS AT PROVIDENCE.

Guardian 8-28-15

(Special.)

New Bedford, Mass., August 23, 1915. "The Birth of a Nation" will play in New Bedford. Tom Dixon, Southern Negro-hater triumphs over home of Douglass and Carney. Sunday a committee of men were given a view of the play. Monday a hearing was held before the Mayor. Mr. Butler R. Wilson of Boston was put in charge of this local hearing with letter and documents, but the Mayor, after hearing him and the following New Bedford citizens, I. C. Dade, Esq., E. B. Jourdain, Esq., Theo. Parker, Esq., Revs, Ramsdell, McIntyre, Scott Mason and Walker, decided to witness the play personally and then decided in its favor.

Boston Herald

2000 NEGROES ASK THAT FILM PLAY BE STOPPED

Appeal to Censors to Prevent Showing "The Birth of a Nation."

Resolutions petitioning the Boston censor board to stop the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," were adopted yesterday afternoon at a meeting of 2000 Negroes, who crowded into Faneuil Hall to hear an address by Dr. W. E. Burghardt DuBois of New York, who spoke under management of the New Public Opinion Club.

The resolutions which will be presented to the censor board, which is to decide the fate of "The Birth of a Nation" Wednesday, are:

"Colored Americans assembled under the auspices of the New Public Opinion Club on Memorial Sunday to be addressed by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois on 'Fifty Years of Negro Freedom,' in Faneuil Hall, the sacred edifice, which as Boston's present mayor says, stands against prejudice, contempt, injustice and enslavement of race, petitions the Boston censor board to stop the photo-play, 'The Birth of a Nation,' which teaches race prejudice, racial injustice, racial disfranchisement against colored Americans, falsifying reconstruction.

"From Faneuil Hall itself we protest the proposition that the pictured slander and disparagement of a minority race shall make licensed amusement for the rest of the people. This is but a step from the brutal tyranny when men were slaughtered to make a Roman holiday."

NEGROES PROTEST AGAIN

Will Meet in Mayor's Office to Attack "The Birth of a Nation."

A delegation of negroes called on Mayor Blankenburg yesterday and got permission to use his reception room to hold a public protest meeting against the production of "The Birth of a Nation," a moving picture film, now running at the Forrest Theatre. The Mayor promised to be present at 11 o'clock Friday morning and to hear what the colored citizens have to say, and also to invite those who were in favor of the film to present their side.

The Mayor was doubtful whether he could take any action in the matter, as it had been argued in Court, and the Court had granted a temporary injunction, restraining Director Porter from stopping the production. The negroes are planning to continue the legal proceedings when the temporary injunction expires.

The delegation yesterday also protested to the Mayor against the clubbing of a large crowd of negroes on Monday night by police. They said that the colored men were merely marching in protest against the film, and that they had done no harm to the theatre or its patrons. The Mayor promised to get a report of the affair from Superintendent Robinson. Meanwhile the four men who were arrested in front of the theatre were discharged by Magistrate Beaton for lack of evidence.

HURLS EGGS AT "NATION" FILM

Friend of Negroes Locked Up After Liberty Theatre Attack.

A whistle shrilled last night in the Liberty Theatre, where the much discussed moving picture "The Birth of a Nation" is being shown, and a young man rose up in the gallery and began throwing eggs at the screen. The eggs fell in the orchestra pit, and although the fiddlers stood their ground manfully it was evidently a trial. The eggs were not fresh.

Private detectives in the house yanked the young man from his seat and took him over to the West Thirty-seventh street station, where he was locked up on a charge of disorderly conduct. One egg made life more unpleasant for him. It was found in his pocket broken.

He said he was Howard Schaeffle, 20 years old, of 123 Washington place; that he had recently come from Boston and couldn't sit quietly by and see the negro race maligned. Several negroes followed him from the theatre and went to the night court with him, vowing to defend him. Schaeffle was held in $500 bail.

MOVIE OPPOSED IN BAY STATE.

Gov. Walsh Fights "The Birth of a Nation."

BOSTON, Mass., April 19.—Several thousand negroes waited on the State House steps to-day while a delegation lodged a protest with Gov. Walsh against the movie show called "The Birth of a Nation."

The Governor will ask the Legislature to pass a law to prevent the production of this show and of all plays that tend to raise race or religious prejudice in case the courts decide that there is no law prohibiting such exhibitions.

A complaint will be filed and if the court finds that the law has been violated Commissioner O'Meara will report to Mayor Hurley and he can stop its production; otherwise the Governor will ask for a new law.

Brooklyn Citizen

MAYOR PLACATES NEGROES.

Succeeds in Cutting Out Two Scenes of Play.

Mayor Mitchel this afternoon at a hearing in the Aldermanic Council Chamber told a large delegation of negro men and women that he had succeeded in influencing the producers of "The Birth of a Nation" to cut out two scenes which were considered objectionable by their race.

"I succeeded in doing this not because of any legal power I have, but for the reason of influence I brought to bear upon the management."

George W. Wibecan, president of the Brooklyn Citizens' Union, a negro organization, said:

"If the Mayor, who has the power, does not stop this play or have its objectionable features removed our race will not guarantee the security of the citizenship of New York."

The Mayor raised his eyebrows. Rabbi Stephen Wise made an impassioned speech against the play. Other speakers were Arthur Garrison, Editor Villard, of "The Evening Post"; Dr. E. P. Duboise, editor of the "Crisis," Editor Edward Newall, of "The Age," and Dr. Frederick C. Howe.

Most of these speakers described the photo-play as an outrage upon the negro race.

"THE NIGGER" IS BARRED BY CITIZENS OF PHOENIX

(By John Credille.)

Phoenix, Arizona, June 11.—Mr. Thomas Mitchel of Swissville, Pa., is now in Phoenix and contemplates touring the state by way of the Grand Canyon, Miami, thence to Bisbee, Roosevelt Dam and the oil fields of the Tonto Basin for the purpose of prospecting. His intention is to make Phoenix and Kingman his headquarters. He has purchased license for hunting, fishing and trapping, by which means he may be able to send a mountain lion or some other equally as interesting specimen to some of his eastern friends. Mr. Mitchel is accompanied by his faithful dog Pios, which he considers his bodyguard. It will take him about six months to complete his tour, and when he will have finished his tour, he will return to Phoenix and report conditions. * * * The citizens of Phoenix have organized themselves into a league for the purpose of protecting their rights and interests. The league had not been fully organized before the people found that it was really a necessity. The very night that the constitution and by-laws were adopted there was a committee appointed to wait on the city manager and county commissioners for the purpose of having the moving film known as the "Nigger" suppressed. The commissioners got busy and enacted an ordinance prohibiting all plays that are indecent or that in any way tend to excite race prejudice. * * * Mrs. Emma Clayton, second teacher, leaves Sunday, June 6, for the Pacific coast. After stopping in California for a while she expectes to tour a part of the country by way of Chicago, Kansas City, New Orleans, through Texas, back to Phoenix by the opening of school September 13. * * * Prof. Simmons and wife have returned to Phoenix to spend the summer. Prof. Simmons has been teaching in Tuscon for the past two years and reports much success.

Boston Globe

JUN 4 1915

"RISE SUPERIOR TO DEFEAT."

J. Mott Hallowell Advises Colored People Not to Consider Violence Because of Film Decision.

Advice to colored people not to hold meetings of an incendiary nature because of the decision of the Board of Censors not to interfere with the production of "The Birth of a Nation" is given by J. Mott Hallowell, who has been one of the counsel for the colored people in their protest against this filmplay.

Mr Hallowell has addressed a letter to the colored citizens of Greater Boston in which he says:

"It has been threatened to resort to violence in order to stop the further production in Boston of 'The Birth of a Nation.'

"When you fight, fight hard; but never begin a fight until you have cooled off and thought the matter out and are sure you are right in starting the fight. Then if you do go in, go in as hard as you can.

"The greatest generals are those who can turn defeat into victory. You have now in this contest two paths before you. One is to use violence against a superior force, in which course you will alienate many who are now your friends and will turn your local and temporary defeat into a general rout. The other is to rise superior to your defeat and by your daily lives and example of good citizenship give the lie to your traducers. Choose this bigger and wiser course. It may seem hard at first, but it is wiser in the end.

"The real struggle for you is not the struggle against this film; the latter is merely an episode in a race epoch. The real struggle is that of a race seeking its way out of bondage. The way is hard and your path is beset with difficulties. But ultimately you will win. And the measure of your success, in the long run, will be the kind of citizens that you show yourselves to be."

WILMINGTON BARS PHOTO-PLAY

City Councilman Hopkins Has Ordinance Passed Barring "The Birth of a Nation."

Wilmington, Del., June 6.—The ordinance introduced a week ago by Dr. John O. Hopkins, the colored member of the City Council, prohibiting exhibition here of motion pictures that would be likely to provoke ill feeling between the races was passed by the City Council last night and sent to the Mayor for his approval. The act makes the Board of Police Commissioners the censors of questionable shows and imposes a penalty of $50 every time one is shown. "The Birth of a Nation," "The Nigger" and other race-hating plays will be barred by the act.

Councilman Hopkins not only had the support of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and leading men and women of the race in its efforts to prevent any such plays from coming here, but none of the whites running moving picture shows or members of the City Council offered any objection to the legislation.

Councilman Hopkins expresses himself as being highly pleased over the outcome, and says that the action of the City Council and the favorable attitude of the whites shows there is no general disposition here to star in the feelings between the races.

Councilman Hopkins was elected two years ago and has made a good record as city father. He is a member of the firm of Hopkins and Banton, druggists, 12th and Walnut streets.

Boston Blacks Riot Over Motion Picture About Reconstruction

Trotter, Rev. Puller and Other Negroes Arrested in Lobby of Tremont Theater. Tickets Refused Trotter.

Boston, April 17.—A racial disturbance which developed tonight in the lobby of the Tremont theater, where a motion picture play dealing with the reconstruction period in the south was presented, resulted in the arrest of William Munroe Trotter, secretary of the National Equal Rights league; Aaron W. Puller, pastor of the People's Baptist church; two other negroes and a white man.

Trotter, who is charged with disturbing the peace, claims he was struck in the face by a policeman. Puller was arrested on the same charge. Trotter said he had decided to go to the theater tonight after receiving a letter from Mayor Curley to the effect that the producers of the play had made changes in the films at the request of persons who sympathized with objections made by negroes who had seen the exhibition.

The trouble followed the alleged refusal of the theater to sell tickets to Trotter. The explanation given by the management was that the house was sold out.

Disorders had been anticipated by the police and more than 100 reserves were near the theater at the opening hour. During the disturbance in the theater lobby and for a long time afterwards hundreds of negroes walked up and down Tremont street between files of police reserves, or clustered on Boston Common until dispersed.

Trotter came into prominence recently when he headed a committee of negroes who called upon President Wilson to protest against segregation of department employees at Washington.

No Time for Race Prejudice.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is fighting attempts to increase the prejudice against negroes that still exists. To this end it sends out a review from the New Republic of a motion picture drama that is now being presented in New York city. The drama is called "The Birth of a Nation," and is founded on Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman." The description of the play shows, as might be expected from the source, that the drama insults the negro race. Dixon, a clergyman, has done much to develop prejudice against the black. His influence, happily, is not great, so that his efforts have not had far-reaching effects.

This year of our Lord is no time for fostering race prejudice. The results of it are seen in the conflict now raging in Europe. It is probably true that some of the excesses of the Blacks in the South after the war were as described in the Dixon books. A race cannot be expected to use its freedom perfectly immediately upon attaining it after two hundred years of slavery. But the negro has advanced much since war time. He has advanced in spite of tremendous obstacles. To inflame against him whites in the North who never had any particular aversion to him is a crime. This play evidently commits that crime.

PROTEST OF NEGROES

Against Showing of the Movie, The Nigger, Was Effective.

Advertisements to the effect that on April 19 in the Cornell Theatre would be shown the picture The Nigger, have aroused the colored residents of Auburn to such an extent that some went to Rev. P. K. Fonvielle of the Zion A. M. E. Church with the request that he use what influence he could bring to bear to prevent the appearance of the movie publicly in this city. The colored persons interested maintained that the picture was one to accentuate only the worst characteristics of their race and that its appearance would be harmful to the community.

At the last Sunday evening service the minister called the attention of his entire congregation to the matter and promised to call upon John N. Ross manager of the Cornell. Yesterday the promise was carried into effect and with H. G. Johnson, a parishioner, Mr. Fonvielle visited Mr. Ross with the request that the booked attraction be cancelled. The theatre man, after hearing the objections of the domine to The Nigger, agreed to cancel the booking. And today, on behalf of his colored congregation, Mr. Fonvielle wishes to publicly express his appreciation to Mr. Ross for the courtesy accorded.

3 MAYORS PREVENT RACE HATE PLAYS

Action Taken in Syracuse, Providence and Springfield, Mass.

—Latter Under Same Statute as Boston.

MASS. CITY BANS "NIGGER"

UNDER SAME LAW AS BOSTON MAYOR QUOTES SPRINGFIELD, MASS. FORBADE PRODUCTION OF THE "NIGGER" A PHOTO PLAY OF RACE PREJUDICE, NOT SO EXTREME AS "BIRTH OF NATION"—WHY CAN'T BOSTON MAYOR STOP LATTER.

Production of "The Nigger" Forbidden; Protested By Negro League.

(Springfield, Mass., Union, April 6, 1915.)

Mayor Stacy issued a mandate yesterday to the management of Fox's Theatre that it should not produce the motion picture play, "The Nigger," as the result of personal investigation and a letter from the Negro Civic League of Springfield protesting against the showing of this picture on the ground that it tended to foster race hatred.

The Mayor has received word from other cities that the production of the picture had been forbidden and he also had a newspaper clipping from an Augusta, Ga., paper in which it was alleged that the Mayor and citizens of that city had been fooled into taking part in the picture under the belief that it was of another nature.

The Mayor said yesterday that there are enough good pictures available without putting on such as tend to arouse class feeling and engender race hatred.

"The theatres of Springfield are going to be kept clean during my administration and I shall see to it that pictures of such a nature or of a kind that are not of good tone are eliminated here," said the Mayor. "The Police Commission of Providence, R. I., recently issued a mandate that any picture that tended to reflect on the character of the Colored people should not be allowed.

"Pictures of this character tend to hurt the cause of good government and tend to stir up race prejudice. For that reason I shall forbid the display of such pictures in the theatres of Springfield."

COLORED CLERGYMEN MAY PASS ON A FILM

Mayor Thompson Makes a Suggestion to Managers of "The Birth of a Nation."

THEIR FINDING TO STAND

A board of censors, composed of colored ministers, may view the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation" for the purpose of aiding Mayor Thompson in deciding whether the films should be exhibited in Chicago.

The mayor revoked a permit for its exhibition a week ago after protests against it had been made by representatives of the colored race. A permit for the show was granted during the last days of former Mayor Harrison's administration, but it has never been publicly presented in Chicago.

ASK FOR PERMIT RENEWAL.

Managers of the production want to place it on exhibition in the near future, and they called on the mayor yesterday, urging him to renew the permit.

"I suggested to them," said the mayor last night, "that they give an exhibition of the picture before a delegation of colored ministers. If they approve the picture I will issue a permit.

PROTEST FROM COLORED MEN.

"I have not seen the film, but colored men have come to me and declared that to show it would stir up race prejudice. If the ministers indorse it I may go to see it myself."

VIOLENT OBJECTION MADE TO "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Many speakers, both white and colored, made violent objection to certain features of the moving picture spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," at a hearing before Mayor Mitchel in New York Tuesday.

The delegation which called upon the mayor represented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Oswald G. Villard, vice-president of the association, said that the production was "improper, immoral and unjust," and he staked his reputation as a student on the assertion that some of the incidents in which negroes figure are not true to history.

Most vehement was Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, who said:

"If it is true that the mayor has no power to stop this indescribably foul and loathsome libel on a race of human beings then it is true that government has broken down. The board of censors which allowed this exhibition to go is stupid or worse and I regret that my name is even remotely connected with such a board. Stop that production, Mr. Mayor, and you will render a great and abiding service to the people of the country."

One of the negro speakers, Edward R. Moore, editor of the New York Age, appealed for fairness to his race.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

AMENDED CENSORSHIP BILL BECOMES MASSACHUSETTS LAW

Aimed at "Birth of A Nation" Play---Passed Senate Finally Friday Noon, Majority Consent Amendment---Signed by Gov. Walsh---Unaminous Consent "Joker" Killed First in Senate and then in House---Dixon People Fought Amendment, Also Mayor Curley---Hard Close Fight in Republican Senate---Governor Lines up Democrats Friendly to Him---Republican Heads use Influence on Republican Members.

Mayor of Boston, Police Commissioner and Chief Justice of City Court Become Commission on Forbidding Plays—Complaint by United Forces Opposing Dixon will be Made and Hearing Held—Victory Ought to Mean Stopping of Play—Mass Meeting Sunday Afternoon in People's Baptist Church by Equal Rights League.

laint. Meantime all be at
ple's Baptist Church Sunday at
three o'clock.

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL.

It was at 1.40 P. M. on Friday that Gov. Walsh signed the Censor Bill. Rev. S. A. Brown, J. W. Schenck, B. R. Wilson and W. H. Lewis were present, the other workers not knowing the timewhen bill would arrive. The Governor gave the quill to his messenger, Wm. L. Reed, who "lobbied" hard for the bill.

VICTORY IN SENATE ON FRIDAY—AMENDE DBILL PASSES.

Friday at 12.45 p. m., as this paper was about on the press, the welcome news was received that the amended censor Bill had finally passed the Massachusetts Senate. The vote was 26 to 13. Senator Martin Hays, of Boston, spoke in behalf of reconsideration of the vote of enactment, opposing the amendment of Senator Bean of Cambridge, also a Republican, that a majority of the new commission of three should be sufficient to stop a play. This amendment was supported on the ground of stopping the photoplay "Birth of a Nation" and thus this is the intent of the law and should have weight in deciding in this play. The Commission are free to consider the case without legal limitations but just on what is right. The bill goes to the Governor who will sign it. The forces opposing the play will probably have spokesmen who represent all their wishes to argue the

—G—

MONDAY SESSION IN SENATE

VICTORY FOR MENDED BILL IN THE SENATE ON MONDAY.

Boston Post Report of Monday's Contest.

(Boston Post, May 18, 1915.)

Victory yesterday crowned the efforts of the Colored people and others who have been fighting the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation," when the Senate placed on the Boston censor bill the amendment the Colored people have been struggling for, and then passed that bill to engrossment.

Under the amendment put on the bill yesterday a majority of the three proposed censors may revoke a license for a public entertainment.

Majority Consent by Bean Amendment

The original bill as passed by the House provides that the chief justice of the Municipal Court, the Mayor and the police commissioner may for any reason satisfactory to them revoke a license for a public entertainment. This bill, however, provided that the three censors must unanimously agree before a license could be revoked.

At present the Mayor and police commissioner may revoke a license if a show be deemed by them immoral. The Colored people and other opponents of "The Birth of a Nation" did not want to take the chance of a unanimous agreement on this show. They tried in the House to get an amendment passed which would permit a majority of the proposed censors to suppress a show but failed.

Yesterday, however, Senator Bean of Cambridge again offered this amendment and it was carried by a vote of 20 to 18.

Hottest Fight of Year—7 Roll Calls

Yesterday's fight over this bill was the hottest waged in the Senate this year. It took up nearly all of the afternoon and kept the Senate in session well into the early evening. In all seven roll calls were taken on it.

An effort was made to have the bill sent to the next General Court, to amend it to give the theatrical men the right of appeal to the courts, to postpone action until today and to amend it so that the act should not take effect until Aug. 1. All were defeated, although several of the votes were very close that on postponement until today being lost on a tie.

The final vote on the bill was also close, it being 15 to 14. This was on a rising vote.

An effort will be made today, it is understood, to have the vote of yesterday reconsidered.

Under the amendment the bill will have to go back to the House again.

In the House the amendment passed in the Senate yesterday was offered by Representative Rowley of Brookline. The vote was 104 for to 116 against.

The Roll Call Lineup.

During yesterday's discussion of the bill in the senate the galleries were thronged with Colored men and women and their sympathizers.

The roll-call on the Bean amendment was as follows:

Yes—Bagley, Bartlett, Bates, Bazeley, Beal, Bean, Cavanagh, Clark, Ellis, Farnsworth, Fay, Gifford, Gordon, Haigis, Kimball, Langelier, Martin, Mason, Perley, Timilty—20.

No—Cummings, Doyle, Eldridge, Fitzgerald, Green, Hays, Hobbs, Jackson, Leonard, Marchand, McGongle, McLane, Norwood, Sheehan, Sullivan, Tetler, Tufts, Wells—18.

Senator Doyle of New Bedford then opposed the bill, saying that the adoption of the Bean amendment made it apparent there will be no legislation enacted this year, because, in his opinion, the House will again reject the "two of three" amendment.

Doyle then moved reference of the bill to the next General Court, which motion was defeated on a roll-call, 15 to 23.

Senator Hays of Boston moved an amendment to provide for an appeal from the board of censors to the Superior Court. This motion was defeated on a voice vote. Senator Leonard's (of Boston) motion to amend by eliminating the chief justice of the Municipal Court was lost, on a rising vote of 18 to 13.

A motion by Senator Wells of Haverhill to postpone further action until today was lost, 19 to 19 on a roll-call. Senator Fitzgerald of Boston moved to amend the act so it will take effect Aug. 1, but that motion was defeated on a rising vote of 7 to 17.

Senator Hays moved an amendment that the act shall take effect when accepted by a majority of the voters at the next annual election and further moved that consideration of this amendment be postponed to Wednesday. The motion to postpone was lost by a vote of 18 to 22. The referendum amendment was defeated, 14 to 22, and the bill was then passed to be engrossed.

—G—

TUESDAY SESSION IN SENATE

SECOND VICTORY IN SENATE—RECONSIDERATION REFUSED BY VOTE OF PRESIDENT ON TUESDAY.

Great Surprise at Close Vote in a Republican Senate.

(Boston Herald, May 19, 1915.)

President Coolidge of the state Senate blocked reconsideration of the engrossment of "The Birth of a Nation" censorship bill yesterday by having his name called and voting no, thus creating a tie.

Reconsideration was first refused by a tie vote of 15 to 15, the men rising. On the roll call the vote ran 16 to 15, but Senator Langelier of Quincy, who was present in the chamber, did not vote. President Coolidge waited a minute, when the poll had reached this point, and then availed himself of his right to vote.

The refusal of the Senate to [illegible] reconsideration of the engro[illegible] which would have opened the way fo[illegible] striking off the amendment added o[illegible] Monday, providing that a majority o[illegible] the three Boston censors might stop [illegible] performance, has brought about a general change in the situation.

The current opinion is now that the House will accept this amendment although Mayor Curley is strongly opposed to it on the ground that it allows the police commissioner and the chief justice of the municipal court to revoke a license which the mayor alone can grant.

The Lineup.

The roll call in the Senate on reconsideration was as follows: Yes—Cummings, Eldridge, Fitzgerald, Green, Hays, Jackson, Leonard, Marchand, McGonagle, McLane, Norwood, Sheehan, Sullivan, Tetler Timilty, Wells —16.

No—Bartlett Bates, Bazeley, Beal, Bean, Cavanagh, Clark, Coolidge, Ellis, Fay, Gifford, Gordon, Haigis, Kimball, Martin, Tufts—16.

Paired—Yes, Hobbs, Doyle, Sheehan; no, Garst, Farnsworth, Bagley.

Victory for Foes of "Birth of a Nation"—Timilty of Wards 12 and 18 Flops Against Colored.

(Boston Traveler, May 18, 1915.)

The result was another victory for the opponents of "The Birth of a Nation." President Coolidge's vote was a great disappointment to the foes of the bill, as amended, as they induced two senators who voted for the bill as amended yesterday, to vote for reconsideration today. These senators were Timilty of Boston and Perley of Salem.

Senator Norwood of Hamilton made the motion for reconsideration. He said if this could be obtained he would move reconsideration of the Senate vote in favor of the majority vote amendment. Norwood's motion was opposed by Bean of Cambridge, Cavanagh of Everett and Fay of Medford.

Boston Literary's Petition.

The following petition was sent to every member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives this morning: (See this on page 4. It was sent to every member of House and Senate through the Guardian office by order of the Literary.)

WEDNESDAY SESSION IN HOUSE

HOUSE CONCURS IN AMENDING CENSORSHIP BILL.

(Boston Herald, May 21, 1915.)

The House concurred heartily with the Senate yesterday on the amendments to the theatrical censorship bill. By a vote of 136 to 71 the lower branch accepted the provision that two of the three censors provided for in the measure may stop theatrical performances or entertainments.

One of the amusing features of really serious debate was the double line of workers established in the lobby during the afternoon. Mayor Curley had his staff on hand working for nonconcurrence with the

Senate majority amendment, while Gov. Walsh's secretary was working to secure concurrence.

The measure has yet to be enacted in the House and Senate and then will be sent to the Governor.

The Debate.

Mr. Sheehan of Boston was earnest against concurrance and urged the members to act on the matter according to their convictions rather than with the idea of securing the votes of the colored citizens. Mr. Donovan of Boston said the bill was unfair inasmuch as it applied only to Boston.

Messrs. Rowley of Brookline and Drury of Waltham spoke for concurrence. "There are some of us," said Mr. Drury, "who may feel the bill is a stronger and better one without the amendment, but the real issue is whether we will accept the amendment, concurrring with the Senate, or allow the bill to be killed." Mr. Burr of Boston closed the debate.

How They Voted.

The roll call on concurrence was as follows:

YEAS.

For concurrence—Achin, Adams, Allen, Annis, Bagshaw, Baker, Barker, J. L. Barry, W. J. Barry Beardsley, Belcher, Bitzer, Bliss, Bothfeld, Bower, T. .H. Brennan, Brown, Buckley, Burke, Cady, Carbary, Caro, Carr, Casey, Catheron Chamberlain, Chandler, Chapman, Churchill, Clauss, Colburn, S. I. Collins, Cook, Cooley, Cotter, ourtney, Cowls, Creighton, Cronin, Crosby, Crowley, Dailey, E. F. Davis, S. Davis, Day, Dodge, P. J. Donaghue W. J. Donahoe, J. J. Donahue, Dowse, Drury, Duggan, Edgell, Emery, Faxon, Felton, Field, Flynn, Frost, Frothingham, Furness, H. C. Gates, J. S. Gates, Gibbs, Good, Graves, Halliwell, Harrington, Harrup, James, Jewett, Kennard. Knowles, Lamb, LeBoeuf, Leonard Lewis, Long, Lucke, Lyman, MacPherson, Madison, Mather, McGlue, O. McKenzie, McLane, Mitchell, Monahan, Monk, Moore, Morris, Morse, Mulvehill, Mulveny, John J. Murphy, Nash, Norwood, Nutting, O'Dowd,, Ogden, Osborne, Pepin, J. C. Perry, J. H. Perry, Potter, Prime, Quinn, Quiry, Rabouin, Read, Renne, W. M. Robinson, Rowley,G. O.2Russell, W. F. Russell, Saunders, Seagrave, Sherburne, Sherry, Sinnott, F. H. Smith, Jr., J. S. Smith, Stanwood, Streeter, W. H. Sullivan, Talbot, Warner, Waterman Weare, Weston, White, E. H. Whit-

(Continued on Page 4)

PROTEST NOW

The "Birth of a Nation," a sensational picture play based on race prejudice, is causing much racial bitterness wherever the promoters have attempted to show it. Mayors of Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Chicago have pronounced it "low and degrading," and have refused to permit it to be run. The picture has not reached St. Louis, but may at any time. In filing an objection to the play before the St. Louis Board of Police Commissioners, Miss Charlotte Rumbold, recreation head of the Park Division, says: "I understand the second act deals with the Reconstruction Period in the South. I believe that, because St. Louis is a city where the sentiment between the North and the South was narrowly divided, it would be inadvisable to present such a show."

Miss Rumbold is right. The picture should be ruled out o this city. St. Louis can ill afford to let this vicious play contaminate her honor. Every true citizen should protest to the Police Board as did Miss Rumbold. Do it today! Protest now!

MRS. CARTER HARRISON'S OPINION.

MRS. CARTER H. HARRISON, the ex-mayor's wife, requests that her name be enrolled among those strongly opposed to the public presentation of the moving picture, "The Birth of a Nation." She said: "I do not approve of the picture and believe it should not be shown. While it is a great picture from the producer's standpoint, it is the most awful thing I have seen. It would arouse racial feeling. I am a southerner and you naturally would expect me to oppose such a picture as this." It is not surprising to learn that Mrs. Harrison takes this point of view and expresses it so boldly. She can always be counted upon to stand on the side of right and justice. The better element all over the country have protested and in many places permission has been denied the producers to show it. It is to be hoped there will be no loophole whereby Chicago may be disgraced by such a spectacle.

PROGRESSIVE PROTEST AGAINST ANTI-NEGRO FILM

STORMED AT by the press, denounced by prominent individuals and public officials, and inveighed against by the whole Negro race, the film play The Birth of a Nation is meeting with almost unprecedented protest wherever it goes.

The story of this play, which is partially based on Thomas's Dixon's anti-Negro book, the Clansman, and which shows Negroes perpetrating one outrage against decency after another, from chasing white girls to voting with both hands on election day, was told in THE SURVEY of April 3, together with an account of the criticism that followed its presentation in New York city.

When the film opened in Boston Negroes threw eggs at the screen and there was some violence in a conflict with the police. The next morning some seven hundred colored people gathered on the steps of the State House and listened to speeches and sang songs. A committee waited upon the governor, who promised that he would try to secure legislation to assist their protest.

Continuous newspaper publicity has been given to the protests of prominent New England people. Rolfe Cobleigh, assistant editor of the *Congregationalist*, declared that he had found from conversation with Thomas Dixon that the author's purpose was "the achieving of white supremacy and the getting rid of the colored people."

The law offered a means of attacking the film only on the ground of corruption of morals. On this ground, the scene where "Gus", the Negro, pursues the little white girl was eliminated by court order. The agitation for a law to enable the film to be stopped on account of its alleged stimulation of race hatred went so far that a bill was passed and signed by Governor Walsh, providing that the mayor, the police commissioner and the chief magistrate of the municipal court, or any two of them, might revoke or suspend licenses for public amusements at their pleasure. Meanwhile, public and political utterances are declared to have exaggerated greatly real public opinion in Boston about the film.

WHEN the events portrayed in "The Birth of a Nation" occurred there were no moving pictures. And if there had been, "The Birth of a Nation" could never have been shown more than once. Even half a century later, these really remarkable and apparently faithful reproductions of long-past events in our national history are seized upon by some persons who do not find trouble enough in the present, as an excuse to stir up the animosities of another era.

Real Northerners and real Southerners who are real Americans and who recognize that the Civil War has passed into history can witness and discuss the vivid reproduction of scenes in our great national tragedy without rancor and even with emotions of thankfulness that we have survived the ordeal. It is far from a bad thing that these vivid pictures of what the war meant and of the problems that confronted the defeated South should be thus presented to the present generation. They are an argument for peace and an explanation of errors that have been regarded as crimes.

"The Birth of a Nation" has been severely criticized as an injustice to the negro. The pictures emphasize the conditions existing when white politicians found it to their interest to incite the lower-class negroes to the worst that was in them, but they also use the less dramatic material found in those of the race who were not carried outside their better natures by the mad spirit of the time. The things most objected to have the corroboration of history. The error of the pictures is not in exaggerating the evils of negro domination so much as in showing the Ku Klux Klan only in its best aspects before it was used by unscrupulous men for outrages even worse than those it was organized to suppress.

SENATOR JAMES W. BEAN,
Of Cambridge, Mass.—Who was responsive to Colored Constituents headed by Morgan and Louis and secured the needed amendment and fought it through the Senate,—A Republican.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

BIRTH OF A NATION BRINGS OUT PROTEST TO CITY COMMISSION

Dr. W. M. Watkins Says Famous Film Has Been Misnamed

"The film entitled 'The Birth of a Nation' has been wrongly named. It should be called the assassination of the colored race," said Dr. W. M. Watkins, chairman of a delegation representing the Negro Business Men's League, in an address before the city commission, Tuesday.

"It is vicious and a libel on the race," he continued, "and tends to increase race friction. Part of the plot is based on the Clansman. It shows where a vicious negro attempts to assault an innocent white girl and her subsequent death in order to escape him. It shows a negro made lieutenant-governor of South Carolina and how he attempts to force a white girl to marry him. In fact it is nothing more than either a malicious or commercial attempt of the producers to stimulate hatred between whites and blacks.

"I saw this film in Boston. In leaving the theatre after the production I heard a number of men remark, 'I would like to kill every negro in the United States.' As I walked down the street, I hung my head for I felt as if the whole world was down on me.'

Dr. Watkins further said he knew that men like the commissioners could view the production without any stirred feelings but the masses of the people would view it differently. He said lynchings had increased since the production of this film. He declared the film had been suppressed in Providence, R. I., Gary, Ind., the state of Ohio, Kentucky and a number of cities of Virginia. He said race riots had followed productions of this film in Boston and Philadelphia while in Chicago no one under 21 years old was admitted.

The commissioners promised the delegation that they would take the matter under consideration.

The delegation appearing before the commissioners were: Rev. W. L. Hamlin, Rev. A. J. Stokes, A. T. Atwell, president of the Negro Business Men's League of the State; V. H. Tulane, G. E. Newstell, Dr. D. H. C. Scott, A. L. Holsey and Dr. W. M. Watkins.

Attwell Is Spokesman For the Negroes Before City Commissioners

The president of the State Negro Business League, E. T. Attwell, of Tuskegee, who is also business agent of Tuskegee Institute, was among the negroes who appeared before the City Commissioners Tuesday morning to state their objections to the appearance of the photo-play, "The Birth of the Nation," in the city of Montgomery. In his concluding remarks before the commissioners he said:

"I do not believe that anybody believes that 'The Birth of the Nation' is a true historical dramatization of things which actually occurred fifty years ago and if anybody should contend that it is a true dramatization of things which occurred I would say to them that even things of this character as presented in this photo-play are objectionable.

"The Johnson-Jeffries fight, the lynching of Leo Frank, the burning at the stake of men, some innocent, in this country if depicted on the screen would not, in my opinion, be the proper means to raise our civilization or the proper thing to show to the general public, and this is especially true in our Southern country. I would not be able to see any object in presenting pictures of this character except it be to raise finance and create prejudice.

"After a race riot in Philadelphia the play was condemned and not allowed to be shown further. There was a riot in Boston on account of the production of the play there. As stated Chicago has put its ban on the show. I mention these facts to emphasize that the play is an objectionable play and has been shown to be objectionable wherever localities have given any study to the details of the exhibition. Where there has not been sufficient public spirit to enter into the study of the play and its unfortunate results there has, of course, been no stand taken as in places where study was been given it.

"The reputation of the city of Montgomery for fairness for the public-spirited citizenship and its desire of a square deal for all of its inhabitants, black as well as white, and in view of the great courtesy extended to its colored inhabitants today, I am confident that our objections and our appeal to you to prevent the play from being shown in Montgomery will be heard, will be heeded, and will be favorably considered."

The negroes also indicated that there was more lynching since the "Birth of the Nation" has been presented before the public than ever before, and contend that the play attempts to throw a mantle of justification around mob law, and that the exhibition is false in history, fact and sentiment.

Boston Globe
April 1915

CONFERS ON CUTS IN PHOTO PLAY FILMS

Mayor Assured as to the "Birth of a Nation."

Colored Citizens Voice Objections to Some of the Pictures.

Mayor Curley said last night that he had a conference with the manager of the "Birth of Nation" films at the Tremont Theatre in the afternoon and was informed that the reason the parts were not cut out of the Saturday evening performance was that it was too much of a job to be done in the time available. The portion objected to was eliminated by working all day Sunday, the Mayor was told.

The Mayor pointed out that he can do nothing further under existing laws. As to the refusal to sell tickets to colored applicants, the Mayor said the management told him tickets were sold to colored applicants. It is a case for the courts, the Mayor explained.

About 20 leading colored citizens voiced their objections to "The Birth of a Nation" before Mayor Curley yesterday forenoon, the latter promising to request Commissioner O'Meara to review again the finding of the police censor and also that the Commissioner confer with him with a view to having other objectionable features eliminated, besides the question of a possible breach of the peace. The Mayor said he believed the play on the whole is an insult to colored citizens and that had he the power he would stop the play at once.

Among the speakers were W. Munroe Trotter, Rev Aaron W. Fuller, Rev M. W. Thornton, William D. Brigham, a white resident of Dorchester, and Emery Morris. Three men and three women present, all colored, said they were refused tickets at the box office, and one woman who was colored but so fair as to pass for a white woman said she bought tickets soon after a couple of colored men were refused.

Rev Dr Charles Fleischer observed after a second visit to the play last night: "At least, may I congratulate Mr Griffith upon a wonderful achievement—whether measured pictorially, dramatically and histrionically. It is soul-stirring and mind-moving and must fairly force Americans to face the negro problem and to work toward its wise and just solution.

"My suggestion to the management is that they incorporate in the play the vital facts of the negro's real progress since emancipation. The suppression of 'The Birth of a Nation,' as I view it, is undemocratic and un-American, and would shut our eyes to one aspect of the relations between the white and dark races. Suppressive action merely gives a notoriety to the spectacle which evidently it neither seeks nor needs, but which would inevitably increase its appeal.

"I would like to urge strongly upon the producers that they present a series of pictures, in connection with their play, which shall tell the story of the progress of the negro from the date of the birth of our Nation in 1865 up to date. The play thus enlarged appeals to me as a far-reaching opportunity to serve not only the cause of the negro but likewise the Nation as a whole."

Dr Fleischer's suggestion was submitted to David W. Griffith last evening and the latter was so interested that he has taken the idea under advisement with a view to making the additions suggested.

Boston Herald

DIXON DENIES STATEMENT AS TO NEGRO RACE

Says Editor Cobleigh's Tale About Extermination Is Due to Hysteria.

The controversy between the Rev Thomas Dixon, author of "The Birth o a Nation," and Rolfe Cobleigh, edito of The Congregationalist, was renewe yesterday when Mr. Dixon denied, in statement in New York, that he eve said the purpose back of the play i the extermination of the Negro race

Mr. Cobleigh declared last night that although he never used the word ex termination in connection with Mr Dixon's statement, he said and reiterate that the novelist told him that one o the purposes of the play was the re moval of all Negroes from the Unite States; and he added that if Mr. Dixor denies that he is not telling the truth.

Mr. Dixon's statement reads:

Calls It Hallucination.

"The statement made by Rolfe Cobleigh that I told him that the purpose back of 'The Birth of a Nation' was the extermination of the Negro race, is the hallucination of an over-heated mind. The assertion is so foolishly absurd on its face that it would not require denial, but for the widespread hysteria which at present affects our colored friends in Boston.

"Early in March I received a letter from Mr. Cobleigh denouncing 'The Birth of a Nation,' which he had never seen. I suggested mildly that he suspend judgment until he had seen it, or at least until I could forward the verdict of the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, who had been asked to see it and make a special report from a clergyman's point of view.

"Mr. Cobleigh replied expressing his confidence in Dr. Parkhurst. A week later he wrote me again for asking for the report from the distinguished clergyman reformer. I immediately mailed it and asked him to print it in full in The Congregationalist. This he failed to do. The reason was simple. It was not what he expected or desired. He did not wish to know the truth. He wished only to attack the play.

Opposed by Parkhurst.

"Dr. Parkhurst gave 'The Birth of a Nation' his 'unqualified approval,' and specifically declared that the play was in no sense an attack on or a reflection on the Negro race of today. On the other hand, he squarely affirmed that the final impression of the drama was the highest compliment to the Negro of today because it showed so simply and plainly his progress from the conditions of 50 years ago, when he had just emerged from slavery.

"On my arrival in Boston on the 9th of April I called at Mr. Cobleigh's office to ask why, after demanding the report of Dr. Parkhurst, he had failed to print it. I met the gentleman for the first time in my life and had a very pleasant but unprofitable talk with him in his little sanctum.

"I again laughingly suggested that he suspend his final judgment until he should see the play that night. He frankly informed me that his mind was already made up, and that no event in heaven or earth could move him. I told him, of course, he could only see on the screen that which he had made up his mind to see. I laughed again and gave him two tickets for which he thanked me.

Can Make Use of Cobleigh.

"The mental make-up of such men is a curious study. As a novelist I intend to use Mr. Cobleigh.

"'The Birth of a Nation' is an absolutely true record of the turbulent life of the civil war and reconstruction. It was produced to stimulate, through three thrilling hours, the study of American history. I find it is certainly accomplishing that purpose.

To the man or woman who sees it with an open mind, it brings only inspiration and gratitude to God for the blessings we enjoy today as a free, united nation.

"The play is much broader and more catholic than my book, on which it is based. In fact, the film is so much broader that I insisted that Mr. Griffith change the title to 'The Birth of a Nation,' as 'The Clansman' was too narrow and controversial to fit the new production.

Mr. Cobleigh is merely repeating preconceived ideas which he got long ago from an angry reading of one of my books. He certainly found no such idea in 'The Birth of a Nation.' The play speaks for itself. Its producers cannot be held responsible for what the critics of my book imagine must be in it.

"I never made the statement which came from Mr. Cobleigh's excited brain. I never made any such statement to any human being. It is hysteria pure and simple."

Same Allegation About Others.

Mr. Cobleigh said last night:

"The allegation of an overheated mind Mr. Dixon makes about everybody who opposes his play. I have had considerable correspondence with him about the play and one interview. In one letter he enclosed a clipping from a New York newspaper in which he was reported as arguing at length for the deportation of negroes from the United States, and quoting Abraham Lincoln in support of the plan.

"He later called at my office and talked most of the forenoon about the play. I finally asked him just what he hoped to accomplish by the film. He replied that one purpose of it was to promote the removal from this country of all Negroes. I laughingly suggested the impracticability of getting rid of 10,000,000 persons. He replied that he was convinced that a start could be made at once and that the project could be accomplished within a century. If he denies that he is not telling the truth.

"As for failing to publish in The Congregationalist Dr. Parkhurst's report, we had no space for it. We should not have published it at such length if it had been in opposition to the play."

"Birth of a Nation" Coming

The photo-play entitled "The Birth of a Nation," which has created such a storm of protests throughout the North and West is booked to appear in Norfolk at the New Wells theatre about the first of October. The play was written and dramatized by Thomas Dixon

Jr., author of "The Leopard's Spots," "The Clansman," and "The Sins of the Fathers." The only difference between "The Birth of a Nation" and the other works of Mr. Dixon is that the former is a baser assembly of falsehoods and a more lurid distortion of history. It goes back half a century to dig up forgotten and exaggerated series of political and social incidents in order to disturb the present amicable relations existing between the white and black races. It teaches no moral and serves no good purpose. It is a libel and slander upon the colored race and a misrepresentation of the white race.

The play was barred out of Georgia as being unfit and undesirable. It was refused admission to Raleigh, North Carolina, Mr. Dixon's native home. It has been repeatedly driven from one city to another where it was shown. It was exhibited in New York city and started a race riot. It was shown in Boston and it required the entire force of police reserves to quell the riot that it started: There is no reason why it should be shown in Norfolk.

If a Negro came to Norfolk and undertook to depict in film or words vicious untruths calculated to stir up racial hatred under the disguise of alleged history, The Journal and Guide would protest loud and long, because we know it would be against the interest of both races. We protest most emphatically against the appearance here of Dixon's "Birth of a Nation" for the same reason.

It is unnecessary to give a detailed description of the "Birth of a Nation." It is sufficient to say it is much worse than the other plays of the author which have been shown here. Compared with the "Birth of a Nation," the "Leopard's Spots" and "Clansman" are mild dramas. The picture assumes to chronicle a true history of the years immediately following the war and known as the reconstruction period in the South. More than half of its characters are Negroes and every Negro is a villian. One is shown chasing a young white girl to her death over a cliff. Something that never has occured. The central figure of the plot is a Negro named Lynch who is pictured as representing a man by that name whom the author claims was lieutenant governor of a Southern State, which is another falsehood, as there was only one Negro Lieutenant governor in the entire history of the South and he is living at the present time and his name is not Lynch. The whole thing is a gross and terrible production of the lurid imagination of a conscienceless tragedian. Every colored citizen in Norfolk should protest at once to Mayor Mayo against the appearance here of the "Birth of a Nation."

NEW JERSEY MAYOR SUPPRESSES PLAY WITH BAD SCENES

The New York

Orange Official Forbids Theatre Which Failed To Cut But Scenes Ordered Uses Stern Measures

COLORED CITIZEN'S REJOICING

Photoplay Based on Edward Sheldon's Play, "The Nigger," Barred from Residential Town After Persistent Fight by Respectable Colored People.

Orange, N. J., May 5.—The colored people of Orange feel proud to know that their city has as its chief executive a man who is mayor for all the people. This was very clearly demonstrated this week in the case of the moving picture play called "The Nigger." It was brought to the attention of the mayor that this play was to be produced at one of the local theatres, and it was represented to him that there were many things in it obnoxious to the Negroes. Upon receiving this information the mayor ordered the manager of the theatre where the film was to be shown to give a private exhibition of the play several days before it was to be produced. To this private exhibition were invtied several representative Negroes and several white business men. The mayor himself was also present. At the conclusion of the performance the mayor immediately announced that all references in the play to nigger must be eliminated and that the scene in which the Governor resigns his office because he finds that he has black blood in his veins must also be eliminated, and that the title of the play should be changed to "The New Governor." The manager of the theatre attempted to offer some excuses, but the mayor was firm in his demands and said unless the changes were made the play could not be produced. The colored men who were present agreed that the mayor had taken a fair stand and were willing to have the play produced with the changes made. At the regular performance of the play, however, the manager produced the original picture without any changes whatever being made. There were present for the purpose of seeing the play and to see if the mayor's demands were being carried out. As soon as it was evident to them that the managers of the theatre had violated the agreement with the mayor they immediately got into communication with him and informed him that the managers had acted in bad faith. Mayor Minnehan called for a conference with the colored men at 11 P. M. They met him in his private office at the Orange City Hall. It so happened that the mayor himself had had a representative present at the theatre, and this representative corroborated the statements made by the colored citizens who had witnessed the play. The mayor was very indignant to find that the managers of the theatre had violated their agreement, and he immediately issued orders for the suppression of the play and informed the theatre people that in case of any other such violation that the theatre would be permanently closed. The managers of the theatre were busy hustling early the next morning to get another film to take the place of the one that the Negoes had objected to.

"The Birth of a Nation"

"The much discussed photo-play opened a week's engagement in Norfolk Monday night as per announcement. It sustained, and almost surpassed its reputation as being a combination of riot, rapine and romance, labelled history. That no physical disturbances have occurred is due to two controlling facts: Norfolk colored people have taken the advice of their leaders and acted as if the play was not in town, and Norfolk white people have refused to go into hysterics over it.

It is useless to attempt a review of the play. To call it history is to tell an untruth. It is fictitious romance. In its final analysis it is a fine defense of the Ku Klux Klan.

The play cannot fail to appeal to the baser passions of men and arouse a feeling of racial distrust. This possibility is not even offset by the showing of several Hampton Institute scenes near the conclusion of the film.

One of the scenes that grossly perverts the history of reconstruction days purports to show the enactment by the South Carolina legislature of 1870 of a law permitting the intermarriage of the races. Most people unfamiliar with the true history of that period will naturally feel that the Negro legislature actually passed such a law. Against Mr. Dixon's picture we quote from "Race Distinctions in American Law," a volume written by Mr. T. Gilbert Stephenson, Prosecuting Attorney for the city of Winston-Salem, N. C. In chapter VI, on "Intermarriage and Miscegenation," Mr. Stephenson says: "It is significant that during the years of reconstruction in the South, none of the statutes against miscegenation appear to have been repealed. The legislature of South Carolina, for instance, in 1865, before the state government went into the hands of the reconstructionists, enacted laws, covering twenty-five or more finely printed pages, defining the rights of Negroes in the most minute details, as was seen in considering the Black Laws of 1865—68. These law were repealed nine months later, but the legislature was careful to add that the repealing act DID NOT APPLY TO THAT PART OF THE ACT OF 1865 WHICH SAID THAT "MARRIAGE BETWEEN A WHITE PERSON AND A PERSON OF COLOR SHOULD BE ILLEGAL AND VOID."

Which shall we believe, Mr. Dixon's drama or Mr. Stephenson's history? The one is from the imagination and the other is supported by legal records and authorities.

So much for its historical value. As a romance it is a success. No human being ever suffered so much in fiction as did Mr. Dixon's Cameron family, and no white gentleman ever had a sweeter mulatto mistress than Mr. Dixon's Major Stoneman, and no hero ever went through so much excitement and came out unscathed as did Mr. Dixon's Col. Cameron, and no heroine ever had a more thrilling experience than his Miss Elsie Stoneman. And when the curtain is drawn on the scenes of murder, riot and rape, it all ends lovely, with a mixture of the insane war lord, Hampton Institute and Jesus Christ. It is stupendudous—and absurd.

Hartford, Conn.
POST

SEP 17 1915

NEGROES PROTEST BIRTH OF NATION

Will Ask Mayor Lawler to Prohibit Showing of Famous Photoplay in This City

"The Birth of a Nation" which has gained more fame than any other motion picture, will not be shown in Hartford without a strong protest being lodged against its presentation by negro residents of this city. At a meeting this afternoon in the African M. E. Zion church, 269 Pearl street, the subject of making a formal protest to Mayor Lawler was discussed by members of the church and others.

Rev. Richard R. Ball, pastor of the church, presided at the meeting. One of the negroes who attended said that the basis of the protest would be on the ground that "The Birth of a Nation" film when shown in communities where there are negro residents, leads to race hatred and sometimes violence.

A "Citizens' Committee" was named at the meeting and the formal protest will be made to Mayor Lawler tomorrow.

Pastor Visits Mayor

Rev. Walter Gay, former pastor of the Union Baptist (colored) church in this city, today visited the mayor and made formal protest against the showing of "The Birth of a Nation" in this city.

Mr. Gay pointed out objectionable parts of the production which include the lynching of a negro. He asked the mayor to take the matter under consideration.

Mr. Gay told The Post that he did not ask the mayor to attempt to bar the film altogether, but that he merely act to have certain objectionable features eliminated, which reflect on the character of the negro. The mayor did not indicate, it is understood, just what, if any, action he would take on the matter.

Mr. Gay appeared satisfied that the mayor would act upon his suggestion.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

MAYOR KIEL CONGRATULATES PICTURE MGRS.

Republican Officials Join in Celebration of 150th Performance of "Birth of a Nation," That Pictures Negroes as Brutes

According to the daily press, the management of the "Birth of a Nation" celebrated the one hundred and fiftieth production of the photo play in St. Louis Monday night, November 15, with a dinner at the Hotel Jefferson. The guests attended the show at the Garrick Theater earlier in the evening and listened to a long distance telephone conversation between New York and San Francisco. The St. Louis guests were cut in on the line by means of individual receivers. They were told that St. Louis was a better town than New York so far as shows go.

Mayor Henry W. Kiel occupied a box at the theater party and was one of the after dinner speakers. According to the press reports, the mayor congratulated the manager and producer upon their success. The following compose the list of supper guests as given by the St. Louis Republic: Homer Bassford, Louis H. Waltke, George A. Wipperman, Judge J. Hugo Grimm, Charles R. Graves, Dr. W. U. Kennedy, M. B. Anderson, J. M. McKelvey, J. B. Thomas, M. J. Collins, Col. Fred D. Gardner, Melville Stoltz, Walter Sanford and City Counsellor, Chas. Daues. Postmaster Selph was toastmaster. Mayor Kiel, Judge Grimm, Graves, Daues, and McKelvey are Republican office holders. J. B. Thomas is an aspiring Republican and ran for the nomination for Circuit Clerk against Graves two years ago.

Negroes are loud in their denunciation of Mayor Kiel and his Republican leaders for their action Monday night. They point to the fact that the Negroes of St. Louis made a strong protest against the pictures when they were first shown here and a delegation of fifty representative Negroes called on the mayor and asked him to help prevent the showing of the pictures in St. Louis. Now, for him, his city counsellor and other Republican officials to shower congratulations upon the producer and managers of this photo play which holds the Negro up to ridicule and pictures him as a brute, they state is an affront to the Colored people and throws doubt upon the mayor's sincerity in the promises he made the committee of fifty to do all in his power to prevent the pictures being shown at the time they called on him. The incident is being widely discussed among Colored men, and many of the criticisms of the handling of the court proceedings when an effort was being made to prevent the show and punish the producers have been heard again.

Spring

October 1915

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

AS NOW PLAYED IN BOSTON

STRONG INFLUENCE FOR HARM

In the Opinion of One Who Lately Saw it and of Friends of the Negro Race

From Our Special Reporter.

BOSTON, Friday, October 1

It is not at all strange that "The Birth of a Nation" holds the stage for a long time and is still running in Boston. Its scenes have high dramatic and artistic merit. Moreover, since the civil war scenes help to illustrate the terrible occurrences now common in Europe, there is an added feeling that they aid in understanding the terrible scenes on the battlefields of France and Russia. During the first half of the play there is swift succession of war scenes,—marching troops, fierce charges and counter-charges, the falling of the dead and the onward rush of the living "into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell," the conflagration of cities, and other terrible and fascinating scenes, rendered with wonderful vividness. They hold the attention closely and they thrill the observer with intense human interest.

It is in the second half of the play that the mischief begins. Those were the days of reconstruction, of the Kuklux Klan, of Negro Legislatures and northern carpetbaggers. The play distorts history prodigously. It represents the Kuklux as a moral and patriotic order whose purpose is to prevent the defilement of white women and to preserve government and society from the ignorance, lust, cupidity and passion of ignorant and revolting wretches. Evidence of the strongest sort is given to show how the play arouses the passions of whites against Negroes and of Negroes against the author of the play. Colored people in Boston have been profoundly stirred over the production. Very many of their white friends have taken hold of the matter, and though the censors in Boston, who were appointed in consequence of the agitation under the new law, have refused to revoke the license and the play is still running after an exceptionally long and successful course, it is still roundly condemned by the colored people and their friends.

The play, as it was staged at the Majestic theater here this afternoon,—where the spectators were remarkably few and undemonstrative,—was changed somewhat from the presentation which was given for the benefit of the Legislature earlier in the year. It has been made more dramatic. There are long-drawn-out scenes of terrific struggle both in the first and second parts. It moves not only with rapidity, but with extreme velocity in some places, and it is a whirl of color and action throughout, save for the few bits of quiet and pathos. Hence it is an immensely entertaining play for white people.

But black people would instinctively look at it in a very different light. Every black character is made repulsive, many of them grossly repulsive, save for the two faithful servants of the southern family, and they are made grossly ridiculous and would never excite an atom of respect in a white person's mind. But, more than the general presentation of the race, the particular persons, especially the foremost mulatto, is presented as a monster of passion and force, and his effort to compel marriage with the white woman, who is pictured with all the possible dramatic art as a frail, clinging and helpless person, tends to make the wrath of the observer swell against the colored people, as represented by this character.

All through the presentation there is nothing which adds one solitary element of respect, confidence or even toleration toward the colored people. There is where the mischief comes. At the beginning there is a disclaimer of any intention of presenting anything to reflect upon any persons or race to-day. But it is entirely worthless to offset the influence of the scenes. Near the end there are scenes of Hampton institute and several slides of highly complimentary facts and statistics showing the progress of the Negro race. But such cold and impersonal statements avail nothing to take the edge from the personal feeling which is given by the pictures. Much concession has been made to public criticism. But the villain of the play is still presented with detail to show as odious and murderous and licentious a face as ever disgraced a human head.

The entire effect of the presentation is to represent the Negroes as inferior, ignorant, sensual, disgusting and repulsive. Still further, the gross perversion of history makes the play positively harmful for young people who get their history from this source. It is true that there is a very pious ending. Jesus Christ is represented in his loveliness and dignity amid an admiring throng, but that is merely the taffy to leave a sweet taste in the mouth. It does not remove in the slightest degree the stigma which is left upon the black race.

Plenty of evidence is at hand to show the judgment of colored and white people whose opinions have much weight. Gov Walsh said at a meeting in the state-house April 19: "I sympathize with you tremendously. If there is anything tending more to destroy and undermine American institutions and American liberty, it is race or religious prejudice. I don't propose, while I am governor of this state, to allow any movement arousing antagonism to any race of people in Massachusetts."

Samuel W. McCall has written a letter against it, in which he says: "As to the Kuklux Klan, if one is ignorant of its criminal character and of its murders, burnings and other detestable crimes, let him read the reports of the trials in the United States circuit court at Columbia at the November term of 1871. It is a gross offense against the idea of government by law that the band so responsible for them should be glorified or represented to-day in any part of the country in any favorable light."

Butler R. Wilson, a prominent Negro lawyer speaking upon the essence of the objections, said that it was that the purpose of the play is to arouse such widespread feeling against the Negroes that they will be driven out of the country. Rolfe Cobleigh of the Congregationalist quotes Thomas Dixon, the author of the play, as saying that he wanted the colonization of the Negroes in Africa or South America: "Mr Dixon said that he wished to have that plan carried out, that he wished to have all Negroes removed from the United States and that he hoped to help in the accomplishment of that purpose by 'The Birth of a Nation.' . . . He emphasized the alleged dominant passion of colored men to have sexual relations with white women and said that one purpose in his play was to create a feeling of abhorrence in white people, especially white women against colored men. Mr Dixon said that his desire was to prevent the mixing of white and Negro blood by intermarriage."

Frances Hackett, in the New Republic, writes at length and here is one paragraph: "My objection to this drama is based partly on the tendency of the pictures but mainly on the animus of the printed lines I have quoted. The effect of these lines, reinforced by adroit quotations from Woodrow Wilson and repeated assurances of impartiality and goodwill, is to arouse in the audience a strong sense of the evil possibilities of the Negro and the extreme propriety and godliness of the Kuklux Klan. So strong is this impression that the audience invariably applauds the refusal of the white hero to shake hands with a Negro, and under the circumstances it cannot be blamed. Mr Dixon has identified the Negro with cruelty, superstition, insolence and lust."

Jacques Loeb, member of the Rockefeller institute for medical research in New York condemns the "bold attempts in this play to picture the Negro as a fiendish moral pervert," and adds: "I have also been shocked by the fact that the audience became a victim of this vicious attempt at arousing race hatred as shown in the applause given whenever Negroes were insulted or attacked in the play."

Oswald Garrison Villard of the N York Evening Post, after seeing the play, wrote: "I unhesitatingly testify that I consider said production improper, immoral and unjust to the colored people of the country. I further testify that if the matter of race were eliminated, the play would, in my judgment, as to the objectionable scenes at least, be unfit for public production, since there is a suggestiveness about it of the kind which physicians and alienists know too often incites to crime with certain types of minds. The attack upon the Negro in this play is entirely unnecessary; it is not directly related to the story, nor is it proportional to the space given to the big things with which the play deals. In my judgment it is a deliberate attempt to humiliate 10,000,000 American citizens, and to portray them as nothing but beasts. In my judgment the play should not be tolerated in any American city."

Moorfield Storey writes at some length to bring out the perversion of history, and adds: "It is an effort to mislead the people of this country who are ignorant of these facts, to excite a strong feeling against colored people already suffering everywhere from race prejudice, and to strengthen the hands of those who would deny them their equal rights as citizens."

Former Attorney-General Albert E. Pillsbury says that with the exception of the Lincoln episode: "It is, from the rising of the curtain unto the going down of the same, a pack of pictured lies so grotesquely false that but for their malice and their power of mischief, as addressed to the eyes of a generation comparatively uninformed, they would be simply laughable. Of some of the displayed incidents most calculated to exalt rebellion and excite sympathy for the (white) victims of reconstruction, probably there is not one authenticated instance in the whole history of the war and reconstruction period."

Here is the opinion of Booker T. Washin: "The play is fundamentally wrong in that it attempts to deal with the development of America since the abolition of slavery by ignoring the substantial progress of the Negro race and emphasizing the cruel misunderstanding of the readjustment period in which unfortunate individuals of both races figured. No matter how many other artistic and historic features the play may have, its ultimate result will be to intensify race prejudice and thereby do great and lasting harm to both races."

William H. Lewis, formerly assistant attorney-general of the United States, says: "This play is the product of a diseased imagination and disordered brain, from the heart of a man surcharged with race hatred and prejudice, the most notorious Negro-phobist ever—Thomas Dixon. . . . This play is more insidious and subtle than a thousand Tillmans and Vardamans. This play is worse than a hundred riots in Atlanta or in any part of the South in its effect upon public sentiment."

A hundred times as much of the same effect from many other prominent men and women could be quoted.

SAMUEL RANCK DEFENDS RACE WOMAN

Chicago Defender 1/22/16.

Knew Housekeeper of Thaddeus Stevens — Birth of Nation Wrong in Blackening Name of Great Congressman and

Employe—Woman Was Married and Had Two Sons Black as Coal.

GRAND RAPIDS FEELS EFFECT OF PLAY.

Prejudice, Strong Before Film Was Shown, on Rampage Now—Merchants Refuse to Sell Race Goods—People Find It Hard to Rent Decent Places to Live—City Government Like Sphinx.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 22.—The Birth of the Nation is being shown here and as usual it is doing the damage that its author and producer, both sons of Confederates, intended. It has left a trail of prejudice in its wake. This city, in which it is hard to find a decent place where one can rent and where prejudice has been strong before the film was allowed to run, is worse than ever before. Last Saturday a farmer came in from Cedar Springs and was refused twice in places where he went to buy merchandise. Many of the whites have become disgusted with the play and also with the city government, who have failed to attempt to stop it. They are likened to the sphinx of the desert. That is only part of the story. When the character of Stoneman was portrayed on the screen it set the blood of the whites to boiling—the firm, set jaw and the determination on his face. They at once recognized this man Stoneman's picture as that of Congressman Thaddeus Stevens. When the race man on the screen told Stoneman he wanted his own daughter many left the theater.

Samuel Ranck (white) of the Ryerson public library made a statement to the Grand Rapids Herald concerning Stevens. Ranck said that he had lived in Lancaster county, the home of Stevens, all his life and knew the Congresman well, also his housekeeper. He says the film is a libel upon the character of Pennsylvania's greatest citizens and on the woman who was his housekeeper. "Many a time have I stopped at the little cemetery in which 'Old Thad' lies buried. Many a time have I looked over the fence at the tomb in which his remains rest and wished that another could spring up in his place. He was born in Vermont and of humble parentage. His mother was left a widow soon after this cripple boy was born, and his affection for her was great. Even after he became rich and famous he left considerable for his mother's grave and none for his own.

Dixon's Falsehood.

"He was a big man during the war and after it. He did not attempt to crush the South, but he had faith in the ability of the Negro to use the ballot. It is no wonder that we get mad when we see him thus pictured. He never married. Dixon says that he lies buried beside the grave of his mulatto housekeeper. This is a falsehood. His housekeeper was Mrs. Smith, who was married and had two sons as black as coal. She lies buried with her family in a Catholic cemetery, while Stevens is buried in a private cemetery, where he chose his own lot before he died. The whole thing has misrepresented affairs at that time, especially this man Stevens and his housekeeper."

STORY OF KU-KLUX RIDE RECALLED BY BIG FILM

"I Was Badly Frightened When I Started Out on First Mission," Says Old Man.

"That picture is history."

He was a man of about 60 years of age, well set up and genteel looking, and he had just come from the Atlanta theater, where he had seen the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation," David W. Griffith's history picture of South Carolina and the war. He had addressed his remarks to no one in particular, but several heard him, and he continued:

"I was 16 years old when the war ended, and I was in the midst of the worst of the reconstruction evils. My father and an older brother had been through the war and my brother did not come back. My father lost his leg and was an invalid from other wounds and I fell heir to the responsible position of head of the house. And I had a mother and two sisters.

"It wasn't long after the reconstruction days began that things got pretty bad, and—well, I had to do what I could to help protect our people.

"One night I got the call from the captain of our band, and I got ready. And I am not ashamed to say that I was scared—I was scared so bad that I thought once or twice of turning back. But I didn't, mainly because I had something of a vision that it might be my time to call for help next. When a man has women folks to think of and the kind of hell we went through surrounding him it gives him a courage he doesn't get any other way. So I kept on—gritting my teeth at every step and forcing myself to go on.

"I say I was scared, but that don't explain my feelings. I was shivering so with fear that it was a hard matter for me to sit on my horse. I didn't know where we were going, or what we were going for, but this uncertainty had nothing to do with my fright. I was nothing but a youth and that probably explains my condition. Every mile I rode was a mile of double torture. I pictured myself the victim of a thousand different deaths, and when we got to the meeting place I was ready to fall off my horse.

"Our captain said only a few words to us, but they galvanized us into a battery of determined men. I shed my youthfulness right there and I have never had that feeling since. It was a case of helpless woman and black brute, and 200 strong we rode to do our mission.

"When our mission was over we had begun something which we kept up for months—but which finally had its reward in a peacefulness of mind to our men folks and a sense of security to our women. And I had lost all sense of fear."

15 May 1915

THOMPSON BARS SOUTHLAND FILM, BIRTH OF NATION

Sensational Photoplay Based on Dixon's "Clansman" Refused Permit.

NEGRO PROTEST IS HEEDED.

"The Birth of a Nation," D. W. Griffith's great photoplay spectacle, founded on Thomas Dixon's story, "The Clansman," may not be seen in Chicago—not for four years.

Mayor Thompson yesterday gave his final answer. It was a firm "No!"

Not as long as he remains in the mayor's chair, he said, will the panorama, starting with the importation of African slaves to this country and ending with the distressing tragedy of reconstruction days in the south after the civil war, be seen at the moving picture theaters here.

While the mayor would not go into a discussion of his reasons for putting up the bars in Chicago against the sensational picture drama, his close friends understand that he objects particularly to the scenes depicting the assassination of President Lincoln, the abortive attempt to impose the "social equality" of negroes and whites, and the impression that northern statesmen and southern negroes committed great wrongs against the south in the years immediately following the war.

Production on a Vast Scale.

The photoplay, among the biggest moving picture spectacle yet attempted, has created a profound impression in sections of the north where it has been permitted. The book, "The Clansman," on which it is founded, stirred the entire south a few years ago. It sought to justify the work of the Ku Klux Klan, or the "invisible empire," as it was termed.

Both the novel and the photolay have been severely condemned by leading negroes, although the authors purposely injected into the reel several negro characters, representative of the best traditions of their race.

The big punch all throuhg the drama is the predominating idea, sent home with unerring skill and effectiveness, that the south was cruelly imposed upon in reconstruction days and that had Lincoln lived the carpetbagger and his negro political aids would not have added "this humiliation to the defetaed and devastated south.

"Social Equality" Driven Home.

One scene, tense and thrilling, that is objected to by the opponents depicts the breakdown of the "social equality" proposition upheld by the white leader when Silas Lynch, a mulatto leader, elected lieutenant governor, asks the hand of a white man's daughter in marriage. Then the personal aspect of the theory is driven home and the thrill of it, as pictured, stirs mightily.

However, above and beyond all the tragedy there is a note of optimism, brotherly love, and a readjustment of conditions on racial lines that is intended to sooth and brighten and present the proverbial silver lining to the somber picture. Out of this terrible topsy-turvy grab bag of racial, social, and political confusion emerges the "new nation."

Makers of Flm Optimistic.

The photoplay makers, in thir concluding monograph, portray the underlying optimism of their effort. It is:

"To the American people the outcome of four years of fratricidal strife, the nightmare of reconstruction, and the establishment of the south in its rightful position is the birth of a new nation. Lincoln's plan of restricting negroes to Africa was dreamed of only—never carried out. The new nation, the real United States, as the years glided by turned away forever from the blood lust of war and participated with hope in the world-millennium in which a brotherhood of love should bind all the nations together."

History One of Strife.

The history of the film from the beginning has been one of racial bitterness, censorial squabbles, and politics.

The national board of censors inspected thep roduction and promptly had a stirring row which ended in the resignation of some members of the board. In Boston presentation of the film was permitted after considerable agitation, but minature riots took place in the lobby of the Tremont theater on several occasions.

After putting on the film at the Liberty theater in New York at $2 prices and installing it under the name of "The Clansman" in Los Angeles and San Francisco, Mr. Griffith looked Chicagoward. He applied for a permit. Mrs. Carter H. Harrison and Charles Fitzmorris, the mayor's secretary, inspected it. Mr. Fitzmorris granted a permit. The film was underlined at the Illinois to open May 1.

Then Mr. Thompson walked into the city hall. Instead of installing the show, the producers decided to ask for a new permit. Then politics entered the ring. "Big Bill" listened to a complaint from negro voters. He at once announced he would inspect the film and if there were anything which would reflect on the negro race he would have it cut out. Later he evidently changed his mind.

No Perversions of History

THE decision of the City Commissioners of Atlantic City to suppress the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," looks like common sense. However costly the production may have been, now being multiplied endlessly over the country, it is well known that it was planned by and based on the works of a man whose partisan and passionate descriptions of American life belong to the perversions of history rather than to that fair and candid treatment of a controversial period that all sections should strive for.

To use for partisan purposes the tremendously cumulative agency of the photoplay, which has its educational value heightened to an unparalleled degree by its all-pervading character and the peculiar vividness of its visual appeal, is a great wrong. The moving picture has all the world for its field; its recreative ministrations are ever welcome. It is, in its best estate, the greatest invention for the highest form of entertainment ever devised. Those who live by it and profit by it, as well as those who merely enjoy it, and the authorities who have to pass on it, have certain inescapable responsibilities. And these should be met with a spirit of fair play and accommodation on both sides. But this does not mean easy-going lenity as to plays and scenes which sin against public morals or menace public order.

So far as the suppressed play goes, it is admittedly an attempt to reverse certain facts of history, to exalt race hatred into a kind of social religion, to cover up with a picturesque glamour some of the most abhorrent phases of the resumption of white rule in the South, wherein one great wrong did not justify others; and, in general, to teach history from an entirely one-sided sectional and offensive point of view. Those who have the right love of their common country are opposed to all efforts to present an essentially false view of history with all the fervor of a zealot, whose emotions, rather than events, determine his pictures the united nation we love and cherish.

President Wilson and Rev Thomas Dixon ere classmates at Johns Hopkins university, and they attended together at the White House a performance of Dixon's picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," at the request of Mr Dixon, who did not disclose before securing consent what the nature of the picture was, nor has the president at any time expressed his approval of it. With this information, from Secretary Tumulty, the incident connecting the president with the much-debated film may be regarded as closed.

Race Problem—1915

Moving Pictures

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION"

Announcement has been made that Atlantans will be given the opportunity of seeing that great triumph of scenic art, "The Birth of a Nation," early in December. Constitution 10-24-15

Following that announcement a committee of three citizens called on Mayor Woodward to ask the suppression of the spectacle. Of this committee only one had seen the picture, the others knowing nothing of it from personal view. The protest was based on the idea that the picture might stir up race prejudice.

Mayor Woodward will doubtless ignore it altogether, inasmuch as the picture has been shown in a number of southern cities already and will be seen in others before coming here. According to the newspapers and authorities in all these cities no disturbance of any character has marred the performances.

"The Birth of a Nation" has been running in New York for a year and will remain there another year, as far as one can predict. It was shown first in the south at Norfolk. Wyndham R. Mayo, mayor of Norfolk, went on record in a telegram to Atlanta as follows:

"'The Birth of a Nation' was shown here a whole week to crowded houses day and night with no disturbance of any kind. The show is spoken of as most wonderful and instructive. The overwhelming sentiment in Norfolk is that it may be shown anywhere in the United States with both pleasure and profit. Before it was shown here I was requested not to permit it. I refused to interfere and it would have been a mistake had I done so."

Mrs. Frank Anthony Walke, president of the Norfolk chapter of the U. D. C., said:

"'The Birth of a Nation' is wonderful. There are a few things that are not agreeable, but to make history correct this has to be with the pleasant. There is much that makes one's heart ache; much that brings pleasure and happiness. Tears and sunshine are well coupled. It is a revelation and all southerners should see it and glory in its teachings."

In Knoxville, in Chattanooga, in Asheville, in Spartanburg and in other southern cities, the reception accorded the spectacle has been the same as at Norfolk. It is perhaps the greatest photo spectacle ever made; it teaches a great thought and moral. It is no incendiary, fire-eating picture. As The Americus Times-Recorder says, "There is nothing sensational in it. Sons of the south and sons of the north can join hands in the hearteous feeling of love and good fellowship as they see it. More than one million persons have already seen it in this spirit."

Hundreds of Atlantans have seen and enjoyed the picture. They have told their countless friends of its wonders and its great attractiveness.

PLEDGE TO CUT FILM BROKEN, NEGRO SAYS

City to Investigate Charge That Not All Scenes Promised Have Been Deleted.

GRANSTON DENIES REPORT

Threatens Real Fight if Any Changes Are Ordered From Present Form.

Charges that Friedman Brothers & Granstrom have failed to make all the eliminations they promised in the "Birth of a Nation" firm were made to city officials today by Dr. V. D. Turner, president of the local branch of hte National Association for the Advancement of the Colored Race.

This was denied by George W. Granstrom, who declared he and his partners superintended the cutting of the film at the close of yesterday's matinee, and saw that the promise made earlier in the day to the City Council was carried out in every detail.

Denies Refusal to Cut.

Mr. Granstrom also denied another statement made by Dr. Turner, that the theater man told Jose B. Sherwood late yesterday that the film would not be cut, and that the promise to the council was made without his authority.

"The theater firm failed to keep faith with us," Dr. Turner told Mayor Powers and Commissioner McColl. "The film still shows the beginning of the pursuit of the little white girl by the negro, Gus, although the chase through the woods has been eliminated. The scene between Lynch and Miss Stoneman has not been shortened a particle."

Promises to Fight.

"We have made every cut we promised to make, and we will not make another change in the film from the form in which it was run last night," was Mr. Granstorm's declaration. "We have kept faith with the council and the objectors, and if we are told to make any more changes we will fight to the limit."

Asked about his reported statement to Mr. Sherwood, Mr. Granstrom declared he did not see Mr. Sherwood yesterday after leaving the City Hall, and that he made no statement to him there.

Will See Film Tonight.

Dr. Turner's visit to the City Hall today was after the adjornment of the council meeting, but he announced his intention of watching the play tonight and appealing to the council tomorrow in case the promised eliminations have not been made.

Commissioner McColl expects to confer with members of the theater firm this afternoon and probably will send a representative of the police department to the Auditorium tonight to witness the performance and make a report on which the council may act tomorrow.

Revocation Thretened.

Mr. McColl believes the council will revoke the license if Dr. Turner's statement is borne out by the report of the city representative after tonight's performance. Revocation of the license undoubtedly would be followed immediately by legal action on the part of the theater firm.

Grand Rapids Mich

DEC 2

NEGROES PROTEST AGAINST FILM

COUNCIL AS CENSORS VOTE TO ALLOW "BIRTH OF A NATION" TO PROCEED.

NEGROES HAD NO HEARING

They Feel That Before Deciding, Aldermen Should Have Given Them a Chance to Be Heard.

The Negroes of Grand Rapids are up in arms against the production of "The Birth of a Nation," which began an engagement in Powers' theater last night.

But members of the common council, by a vote of 17 to 2, taken in the theater after the presentation of the pictures, gave them their official O. K. The two votes against the film were those of Aldermen Wood and Swarthout, but these opposing votes were qualified.

After the council had dispersed, Alderman Wood stated that the way the question was put to him was what prompted his vote against the show, but said:

"I did not intend to be understood as voting to close the showing. I believe it is educational and a valuable production and should be allowed to continue. But I do believe that the Negroe are justified in their contention that certain scenes would have a tendency to inspire race prejudice."

It was said that Alderman Swarthout held similar views.

There was a representation of five colored men to witness the production in behalf of their people. Nineteen members of the council, including Mayor Ellis, were present to censor the production in response to an appeal made to the council a short time ago to prohibit the show.

Negroes Condemn Certain Scenes.

The colored men expected that they were to meet with the aldermen after the show so as to be heard, but the council held a meeting in another part of the theater unknown to the colored men, who failed to connect with them.

Afterward the Negroes were not slow in condemning certain scenes in the attraction. Those protesting were Rev. Louis Pettiford, Joseph Ford, W. H. Bixley and A. Corbin.

They feel that the aldermen did not treat them fairly. James Dooley, one of the delegation, said:

"We feel that the show is resurrecting a feeling of antaganism between the north and south that has taken 50 years to overcome. We feel that some of the scenes shown never did take place and we believe that it will have a tendency to prejudice the young people of the north who do not understand the race, especially the foreign element who have had very little contact with the Negro. We regret very much that in the city of Grand Rapids, where the most amiable feeling exists between the races, the council should feel justified in approving the play."

The colored delegation will visit the mayor and learn if there is not another chance to have the show stopped or at least have some of the objectionable features eliminated.

MAYORS WIFE O.K'S BIRTH OF A NATION OBNOXIOUS MOVIE

Film Based on Tom Dixon's Vile Play, "The Clansman," and Which Tends to Increase Race Hatred Is to Run in Chicago—Run Out of New York Last Week.

MRS. HARRISON CENSOR

Promoters Enlist Her Aid and That of His Honor's Secretary—Pictures Are Viewed and Sanctioned by Them and Censor Board Is Ignored.

Mrs. Carter H. Harrison, wife of the Mayor of Chicago, has used the high power of her nearly extinguished husband to "sidetrack" the municipal board of film censors and herself pass upon, approvingly, the Griffith film known as "The Birth of the Nation." This film has been much talked and written about throughout the country on account of the fact that it is a "movie" version of Rev. White's infamous race-hating play called "The Clansman."

Wherever, thus far, the promoters have attempted to show the film they have been promptly squelched by the local board of censors because it tended to arouse race hate and strife. Even in large southern cities such as Atlanta, Ga., and New Orleans the exhibition of the pictures was prohibited. In New York City last week an attempt was made to show them, but the censors interfered with the result that the management was driven from that city.

Shown at Private Exhibition.

They came to Chicago, and through some means reached the ears of the Mayor's wife and his private secretary, Charles Fitzmorris. It is reported that a private exhibition of the pictures was given for the exclusive benefit of the Mayoress and "his lordship" the private secretary. The municipal board, it is reported, were told that the exhibition was not for their eyes and that the final determination as to whether its presentment without censorial mutilation would not rest with them. Mrs. Harrison and her husband's private secreary caused the private view to be staged in the municipal "movie" censor rooms in the City Hall, and after witnessing the "chase of the bloodhounds" and "the mob hanging a nigger," together with the numerous other scenes breathing race hate, they told Major Funkhouser it was O. K. and that the promoters would be allowed to exhibit the firm without interference.

It is said that the managers are now planning a summer run at the Illinois Theatre at two dollar prices.

Must Chicago Bear This?

This character of pictures and plays have always been a source of much concern to the negro people in Chicago, and through the co-operation of the broad-gauged liberal citizens

The Chicago Defender

and leading politicians Chicago has up to this time been fortunately free from such exhibitions. It has remained for Mrs. Harrison, the Mayor's wife, herself a scenario writer, to close the official life of her husband by putting her seal of approval upon the production of a "movie" film everywhere else condemned, and admittedly designed to arouse race hatred and antagonism.

(By Cary B. Lewis.)

Freeman Bureau, 3000 South State St., Phone, Douglass 8058, Automatic 75-233.

CHICAGO, Ill., May 21.—(Special.)—With "No Jim-Crowism" in the public schools, with Ella Flag Young, superintendent, the "Birth of the Nation" barred by an edict of Mayor William Hale Thompson, a race man on the Board of Censors to keep all obnoxious scenes from being shown in this city, patronage soon to be given to men and women of the race who helped in the last campaign, things look fairly bright for the race in the second greatest city in the United States. Even though Mrs. Carter H. Harrison and the ex-mayor's secretary had put their o. k. on the "Birth of the Nation," and powerful money influences were backing the production; this did not keep the new mayor from saying, "No such play shall be shown as long as I am mayor." While many white people who were interested in the production were doing all they possibly could to get the mayor's o. k. and the Rev. Mr. Griffin, founder of Thomas Dixon's story, using his best efforts to stage the play, the Chicago Defender, the N. A. A. C. P. and influential men and women of the race were right at the door of the mayor telling him of the sensational play which was based on race prejudice and should not be shown in the great and growing west. Then too, there was the reverberating influence of Editor Monroe Trotter, who did the manly part in the Grand Old State of Massachusetts in fighting to keep the play out of Boston; all this had much to do with the mayor's decision.

Condemned by Leading Race Men.

Both the novel and the photoplay have been severely condemned by the leading men and women of the race. In no section of the country have they been asleep where such plays have been shown. East and west men and women of character have protested against the showing of the "Clansman" and the "Birth of the Nation." They have been one solid unit. While the author has told mayors and censors boards there was a note of brotherly love in the play, he did not tell of the infusing of "social equality" features which were shown to further create race prejudice.

History One of Strife.

The history of the film has been one of strife, racial bitterness, censorial squabbles and politics ever since it was first shown. The national board of inspectors had a stiring row which ended in the resignation of some of the members of the board. Their conscience could not be made to pass favorably on such a low, degrading picture. The play was recalled in Boston at Tremont theater after much rioting. It went to Los Angeles, Cal., and San Francisco and had similar troubles and Mr. Grijn thought that Chicago was a "sure thing." He had Mrs. Carter H. Harrison's o. k., but low and behold Mr. Harrison went down in the scrap heap of defeat. Then came Mr. William H. Harrison. The play was billed for the Illinois theater for May 1, at $2.00 per seat, but the house is closed and no "Birth of the Nation" is in sight.

Mr. Thompson's Decision.

When Mr. William Hale Thompson walked in the City Hall, instead of installing the "Birth of the Nation," big "Bill" heard complaints of the leading men and women of the race. He was shown editorials of the Chicago Defender. He said he would inspect the play and if there was any thing objectionable he would have it cut out. Other editorials were written and others called upon him. Later his answer was to the film people: "There will be no 'Birth of the Nation' shown as long as I am mayor." In this is shown the character and the strength of the new mayor. The race has much to feel proud of such a man in the mayoralty chair. Every newspaper in the country, it is hoped, will comment upon the mayor's attitude in a way to get others in authority to see the light as Mayor William H. Thompson. Now "All is quiet on the Patomac."

New York Sun

31 March 1915

ASK MAYOR TO STOP 'BIRTH OF A NATION

Negroes and Their Friends Call Production "Cruel and Untrue."

SCENE TO BE TONED DOWN

Violent objection to certain features of the moving picture spectacle "The Birth of a Nation" was made by many speakers, both white and negro, in a hearing before Mayor Mitchel in the Board of Estimate room at City Hall yesterday. The Mayor replied that he had seen the play himself and had spoken to License Commissioner Bell about parts that were deemed objectionable. On a hint from Mr. Bell the producers had agreed to tone down some scenes.

The delegation which called upon the Mayor and filled the hearing room represented the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Oswald G. Villard, vice-president of the association, said that the production was "improper, immoral and unjust," and he staked his reputation as a student on the assertion that some of the incidents in which negroes figure are not true to history.

Frederick C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration at this port, is chairman of the National Board of Moving Picture Censorship. He said:

"The ground of my protest is that the play affects 10,000,000 citizens who are degraded by it. One-half deals with war and the other half portrays the negro as a lustful and degraded creature. This portrayal is cruel, vindictive and untrue."

Most vehement was Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, who said:

"If it is true that the Mayor has no power to stop this indescribably foul and loathsome libel on a race of human beings then it is true that government has broken down. The board of censors which allowed this exhibition to go is stupid or worse and I regret that my name is even remotely connected with such a board. The negroes of this city have been patient. They have not yet risen to protest as did the Irish who attacked "The Playboy of the Western World," which was really a beautiful poem. If I did not know that Thomas Dixon, upon whose novel "The Clansman" this moving picture play is based, was capable of this infamy I would believe that he had been hired to write that book to stir up race prejudice.

"Stop that production, Mr. Mayor, and you will render a great and abiding service to the people of this country."

Miss Lillian D. Wald told the Mayor that it "was impossible to measure the potential dangers that threaten us if this production is allowed to go on."

One of the negro speakers, Edward R. Moore, editor of the New York *Age*, appealed for fairness to his race.

NO BIRTH OF A NATION FOR PALATKA

The Palatka Advocate

Manager Kalbfield of Popular Play House Assures Negroes

11/29/16.

Thomas Dixon's degrading film play known as The Birth of a Nation has been refused by the Grand Theatre the most popular play house in Palatka. More than three months ago the manager Mr. Louis Kalbfield was approached on the subject by the editor of this paper and was assured that this film which has excited the most bitter comment from the better classes of both races the counrty over would not be released in his house which about settles the question so far as Palatka is cncerned. Already "The Birth of a Nation" has invaded most of the larger cities of the state and the fact that Palatkans have shown no relish for the Dixon masterpiece is but another moral victory for the Gem City in her stand for fair play to all her citizens.

The business and civic league has taken a very active part in the movement to keep this breeder of prejudice and race hatred from being imposed upon the innocent minds of an exceptionally peaceful and harmonious community.

Out of the appreciation for the very manly stand of Manager Kalbfield in considering the wishes of his colored patrons in this city as well as his keen sense of the injustice done the race as a whole, the business league drew the following resolutions:

Whereas the film play known as The Birth of a Nation contains scenes which breed contempt for the Colored Race by misrepresentation and straining of facts:

Whereas it excites prejudice and engenders race hatred between two races that might be otherwise peaceable and filicituous:

Whereas Manager Kalbfield has refused to release this degrading film in his theatre:

And Whereas the league realized the big financial sacrifice in the refusal of this picture by the management.

Therefore be it resolved, First that The Negro Business Men's League of Palatka graciously thank Mr. Kalbfield and associates for their most liberal financial sacrifice for justice and right:

Sesolved, Second, That The League highly appreciates the management's generous concern for the comfort and racial pride of our people as well as their desire to encourage rather than hinder the excellent spirit of compatability now existing between the two races here.

Resolved, Third, That a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the minutes of the leeague, and a copy be sent to Manager Kalbfield.

Submitted,
T N WILSON, Pres.
H A HAGLER, Secy.
R D ALEXANDER
W F BATES
REV. G F ELLISON, Chmn.

SYRACUSE BARS "NIGGER"

PHOTO PLAY FORBIDDEN BY MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER IN SYRACUSE, N. Y., ON PROTEST OF COLORED PASTOR — HAD BEEN WIDELY ADVERTISED — THIS PHOTO PLAY IS NOT SO BAD AS BIRTH OF NATION—WHY CAN'T LATTER BE STOPPED IN BOSTON?

The Baptist Social and Missionary Union of Onondaga County,
Syracuse, N. Y.

April 6th, 1915.

Mrs. Geraldine Trotter,
Boston, Mass.

My dear Mrs. Trotter:

I am sending you a clipping which I think is worth while publishing. I went to the mayor of our city personally and by presenting my case as a man to a man succeeded in preventing the production of "The Nigger" in Syracuse. It was widely advertised to be presented April 5, 6 and 7, but as you see was prevented. **I attended the private performance.** The theatre people made a big fight for their side, but with God's help I succeeded in winning out for our people.

With best wishes for you and Mr. Trotter I am

Sincerely yours,
(Signed) JAMES L. PINN.

Cannot Show Film.

(Syracuse Herald, April 2, 1915.)

Mayor Will, Commissioner of Public Safety Hitchcock and Deputy Commissioner Friedrich attended a special performance at the Eckel theatre this morning when the film of Edward Sheldon's play, "The Nigger" was run off on the screen for their particular benefit. "It was a very fine film," said Commissioner Hitchcock this afternoon, "but I do not think it will be produced here." Rev. James L. Pinn of the Bethany Baptist church called on Mayor Will yesterday afternoon and filed a protest against allowing the picture to be exhibited in Syracuse. "The Nigger" is a play of race riots and lynchings in the South and as a play had some measure of success in New York about three years ago.

OHIOAN'S PROTEST BRINGS RESULTS

"Birth of a Nation" Will Not Appear on the Program Arranged for the Ohio Corn Special Boys at Philadelphia—Open Letter to T. P. Riddle in Defender Last Week—Governor Voices Citizens' Protest.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Dayton, O., Dec. 31—The association formed by race men has achieved a victory for the good of all. The staunch and unflinching Governor of Ohio is still carrying out his policy, namely, "Ohio shall not be Alabamazed," hence the result of an appeal to him was expected to bring the desired effect. The correspondence following is a sequel to the open letter to T. P. Riddle, who had the program in charge which appeared on the editorial page of the Chicago Defender of its last issue:

The Governor's Letter.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 24, 1915—Mr. E. T. Banks, Secretary: Dear Sir: On receipt of your letter I immediately called by phone Mr. Riddle, who has been placed in charge of this year's Corn Boy Excursion by the State Board of Agriculture, and informed him that I strongly disapproved of placing on the official program of entertainment outside of Ohio, attendance upon the exhibition of a moving picture film which the Ohio Board of Film Censors had decided to be improper for exhibition in Ohio.

I further informed Mr. Riddle that if this feature of the official program is retained I shall feel justified in cancelling at once my promise to be present with the excursion at Philadelphia to deliver an address to the corn boys. Yours very truly, Frank B. Willis, Governor.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

May 1915

PLAY CENSORS' BILL TO GET THIRD READING

Rowley to Offer Amendment Providing That Action by Two Members Shall Stop Any Production Under Ban—Many Negroes Crowd Galleries.

The bill to establish the mayor, police commissioner and chief justice of the Municipal Court of Boston as a board of censors, of theatrical productions, with power to stop any performance at any time "at the pleasure" of the board, was ordered to a third reading in the House yesterday by a rising vote of 94 to 41.

When the bill, which was reported by the committee on the judiciary as a result of the protest against "The Birth of a Nation," comes up for its third reading today, Representative Rowley will offer an amendment to provide that action by a majority of the board shall be sufficient to stop any theatrical production. The bill as at present drawn requires unanimous action by the three members.

Galleries Crowded

Yesterday's discussion of the bill was before crowded galleries, in which colored men and women were in the majority. William H. Lewis, former assistant United States district attorney and one of the most strenuous among the Boston negroes in his opposition to the production of the play, occupied a seat on the side of the House chamber throughout the debate.

Arguments in favor of stopping the photoplay were greeted in one or two instances by applause from the galleries, and Speaker Cox was obliged to warn the spectators against any demonstrations of approval or disapproval.

Representative Burr of Boston, in charge of the bill for the judiciary committee, explained its provisions at the opening of the debate.

Sheehan of Boston, opposing the bill, said it is presented solely for the purpose of quieting a mistaken public clamor. He said he has had many friends among the negro people, but he thought if they were fair-minded they would not see anything objectionable in the production which has caused so much discussion.

Giblin of Boston said his race has been villified far more than the negro, but when the Irish Players were in Boston a few years ago there was no Irish mob climbing the steps to the governor's office to protest. He said he would like to have pictures like "The Birth of a Nation" shown in every school in the country.

Chairman Kennard of the judiciary committee, said the committee considered the bill pretty much apart from the picture in question. He said the committee found that the law is different in Boston than it is in any other place in the State.

Criticises Negroes

Donovan of Boston criticized the negroes for what he said was an attempt to start a riot at the theatre the night the arrests were made

Washburn of Worcester urged that the bill be not treated as one designed solely to remedy a possible wrong to the colored race. Instead, he said, it applies to all theatrical exhibitions, and gives to properly and fairly constituted authorities power to shut up a show which ought to be shut up, a power which they have not today in sufficient measure.

W. H. Sullivan of Boston called attention to the fact that all of the opposition to the bill thus far had come from Irish Democratic members

J. J. Donahue of Medford said there can be no question that the play excites hatred of the negro.

Dowse of Sherborn declared the picture an insidious attack upon the North.

Cross of Royalston said those who oppose the play have not taken the trouble to analyze it.

JACKSON'S MOVING PICTURE BILL IS LOST BY ONE VOTE

Anti-Race Riot Bill Which Passed the Lower House By a Vote of 114 to 2 Is Killed In Upper House Because Senators Harris and Cornwell Would Not Vote.

BOTH MEN FROM CHICAGO.

Race Voters In the Ward Comprising Their Districts Should Remember Them On Election Day—Four Democrats Vote For Bill.

Special to The Chicago Defender.

Springfield, Ill., June 25.—Thursday night, in winding up the great mass of work before adjournment, the Senate killed Representative Jackson's Moving Picture Bill. This splendid measure was lost for the want of one vote, two Republican Senators refusing to vote. These Senators were George W. Harris, 6th District; W. H. Cornwell, 31st District. Both of these districts are on the north side of Chicago.

Democrats Help.

Among those who voted for the bill were Senators Carwell, Gorman, Keller and Sullivan, Democrats. Politicians are surprised at the actions of the two Republican Senators and the voters in the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th wards and Evanston are instructed to remember them on election day.

Springfield, Mass. Republican

It Should Not Be Allowed

The selectmen of West Springfield have voted to lease the town hall for a month for the presentation of the notorious motion-picture drama, "The Birth of a Nation." Happily the lease has not yet been executed and the selectmen, in view of the strong sentiment that has already made itself felt, may be expected to reconsider their action in the public interest. The revenue derived from the hall for this purpose would be a pitiful price for which to sell the town's good name.

The colored people have made a strong issue over this play. They believe that it grossly and cruelly misrepresents them, creates prejudice against them and hampers them in their relations with other Americans. They have therefore made an urgent effort to prevent its presentation and in this they have had the hearty support of prominent white men and women who see the play as they do and believe that it is pernicious in its influence.

To allow this play to be given—and in a building which houses the high school and library—is therefore a direct affront to the colored people; but it is also certain by reason of its false teachings to do an injury to any others who may be influenced by it. That a protest has not been earlier heard is because the public has not known that the presentation of the play in West Springfield was proposed, but the selectmen will quickly perceive that they are not serving the town's interest by permitting it.

There was a time when disreputable resorts were maintained in West Springfield because the town was "easy." Latterly there has been a great change for the better. To permit this play to be given suggests a return to the old ways, and the citizens will not like it. Springfield prohibited it for good and sufficient reasons and the remark of a selectman that "we don't have to worry about a big Negro vote on this side of the river" is not only uncalled for, but it may very well be one that the selectman will regret. Some things are done for decency, without political consideration or profit.

New York Sun

April 1915

MAYOR ORDERS MORE CUTS IN THE 'NATION'

Tells Producers of Film Play It Creates Racial Prejudice.

OWNERS DEFEND PICTURE

Having heard on Tuesday the argument of those who think the motion picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," should be stopped, or at least expurgated, Mayor Mitchel listened to the other side of the controversy yesterday.

D. W. Griffith, producer of the spectacle; his counsel, Martin W. Littleton, and Thomas Dixon, upon whose story, "The Clansman," the second half of "The Birth of a Nation" is founded, defended the work against the attack made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Mr. Griffith said that although several of the scenes had been cut, he was notified yesterday by the Department of Licenses that the theatre would be closed unless further changes were made.

"I want to do what is right," he told the Mayor, "but I do not want to be persuaded by a few people when I know they are wrong."

To this the Mayor replied:

"My mind is quite free. I have seen the play. If it were, as you suggest, merely an argument against the marriage of blacks and whites the question might be different, but there are two scenes that go further and appeal to race prejudice, and I feel that they ought to be modified. The negro citizens have certain rights that have to be observed no matter what you and I think about the matter."

He suggested that if Mr. Griffith and his friends watched the pictures in the Liberty Theatre with License Commissioner Bell and Deputy Commissioner Kaufmann a satisfactory agreement could be reached. It was decided that this should be done.

Mr. Littleton spoke harshly of the Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He said it purposed to establish social equality between whites and blacks, and that it had organized a lobby in twelve States and the District of Columbia to defeat bills which were designed to prevent interracial marriage.

Mr. Dixon defended his work as historically accurate, and said he had offered a $5,000 reward for any proof to the contrary.

In a letter Dr. Parkhurst wrote:

"It is not apparent what are the grounds of the objection urged against this drama.

"The criticism that it exhibits the negro in an unfortunate light and that it is calculated to engender racial animosity is fully met by the consideration that it represents the negro, not as he is now at all, but as he was in the days when he had just had the chains broken from him and when he was rioting in the deliciousness of liberty."

Mrs. Rosalie M. Jonas, suffragist, sent a letter to the Mayor protesting against "The Birth of a Nation" as "vicious and vulgar." The letter also was signed by Mrs. Harriot Stanton Blatch, Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, Mr. and Mrs. Norman de R. Whitehouse, and other suffrage workers.

The hearing of charges against Harry Aitken and D. W. Griffith, producers of "The Birth of a Nation," was put over until next Thursday by Magistrate McQuade yesterday in the Jefferson Market police court.

The adjournment was granted at the request of Reuben Peckham, representative of James W. Osborne, attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People. Mr. Peckham told the Magistrate that in view of certain changes in the play agreed to at a recent hearing before Mayor Mitchel the charge would probably be withdrawn when the case is called.

NATION'S SACRED HISTORY DISTORTED

THE "BIRTH OF A NATION" AN INSULT TO THE NORTH, DECLARES OHIO'S ATTORNEY GENERAL.

The Gazette 2/19/16.

UPHOLDS CENSOR BOARD

(7 P 16)

In Barring the Infamous Photoplay From the State and Says the Picture Glorifies Outlaws and Grossly Misrepresents the Reconstruction Period.

Columbus, O., Jan. 17, 1916.
Hon. Harry C. Smith,
Editor Gazette,
Cleveland, O.,

Dear Sir:—Enclosed you will find a copy of Attorney General E. C. Turner's statement in a letter to the Ohio Board of Film Censors, which is self-explanatory.

Yours very truly,
Chas. G. Williams,
Chairman, Ohio Board of Film Censors

"After viewing the photo-play entitled 'The Birth of a Nation,' I am firmly of the opinion that the board of censors did right in not permitting this picture to be shown in Ohio. Over and above the mistreatment of the Negro, the picture is an insult to the North and a contemptible distortion of well-known history regarding the Civil war. The proper title of this picture should be 'An Insult to a Nation.' In the face of the indisputable fact that the mulatto is the product of the South alone, the author of this picture has dared to attempt to attribute the actions of the leaders of the North to the influence of liason with colored women, typifying a congressional leader, preceding, during and after the Civil war, as a low, coarse, vindictive Negro-worshiping-advocate of mixed marriages having as a mistress a mulatto who wields an influence sufficient to justify the sub-title 'A Great Leader's Weakness that is to blight a Nation.' This immediately precedes Lincoln's call for volunteers. That there may be no mistake as to who is meant by this coarse caricature, they pick out a cripple to unmistakably denote Thaddeus Stevens. For fear that some one might not understand, there is thrown upon a screen a sub-title stating that 'The executive mansion of the nation was transferred to this man's residence.' After glorifying the rebel flag and the flag of South Carolina, the author dresses a horde of the lowest type of bad land Negroes in the uniform of Union soldiers and causes them to enact scenes similar to those of General Early's army at Chambersburg, Pa. Not satisfied with even this, the author labels Union officers as 'scalawag white captains.'

FLING AT SHERMAN.

"A fling is taken at General Sherman's memory in the marauding scenes under the titles of 'While the women and children weep a great conqueror marches to the sea' and 'The torch of war against the breast of Atlanta.' General Grant, the man who, according to fact and real history, sent 25,000 rations to General Lee's men and allowed those men to ride their horses and mules home so as to be able to cultivate the soil; the soldier whose terms of surrender had been so generous as to evoke from General Lee the statement, 'This will have a very happy effect on my men;' the man who did not even wait to witness the formal surrender of the troops, this hero, not only of the Northland but of the entire world, is pictured with a stogie-like cigar in his mouth tilted at the angle chosen by cartoonists to represent 'Uncle' Joe Cannon, and with his hand jammed down in his pants pocket, is made to swagger over in front of General Lee, who remains the personification of dignity. Time after time the North is unfavorably contrasted against the South. A fair daughter of the North is wooed by a gallant son of the South, who has but two competitors for her affections, one a leering lout dressed slouchily in Union blue, the other a Negro.

MISREPRESENTS NEGROES.

"Insult after insult is heaped upon the soldier's uniform made sacred by the boys in blue. Notwithstanding the historical fact that the Negroes were the protectors of the white women and children of the South during the dark days of the Civil war and that no ravishment of white women by blacks during that period is recorded, a Union officer's uniform of blue is placed upon the lowest type of Negro imaginable, and he is made to pursue a little white girl who jumps from a cliff to her death, and there is then flashed upon the screen, 'For her who had learned the stern lesson of honor we should not grieve that she has found sweeter the opal gates of death.' The Negro's 'lust for white women' rather than the white man's lust to regain lost power, is made the justification for that organization, well-known in history as the Ku Klux Klan. And what all history, including the reports of the courts, say was a band of outlaws, is made an organization of heroes under religious rights. Brush up your history and imagine if you can the Ku Klux Klan giving birth to this nation. Among this mass of false and distorted history there was flashed upon the screen the reason for the picture and the books which preceded it—'Bitter memories will not allow the poor bruised heart of the South to forget.'

WHENCE INDORSEMENTS COME.

"After viewing this picture I read the brief of attorneys for the corporation seeking to commercialize this 'Insult to a Nation,' and found quoted therein purported indorsements of the picture by Claud Kitchin, L. P. Padgett, R. N. Page and other sons of the South, who are now prominent in congress. In addition there is quoted therein a long eulogy of the picture by a state commander of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. In his indorsement of the picture this commander says: 'The Sons of Confederate Veterans today are working along two lines, first, to see that the Southern side of the controversy which led to the Civil war is correctly stated in history, which will demonstrate to the world that we are not sons of rebels but sons of patriots.' We of the North are asked to forget, yet at the same time, insulting our heroes and our cause, the promoters of this picture are asking the youth of the North to accept in this picture manufactured history. In this brief there is quoted letters purporting to come from children of this state who had been shown this picture through the efforts of a man blinded by partisan politics. These letters show that these children are accepting the incidents of this picture as real history. This picture shows the South to have been right and the North to have been wrong. Our fathers settled that controversy in the arbitrament of arms and no good can come from an attempt to re-open the question or distort its history. This picture is neither of a moral, educational, amusing nor harmless character, and the statute (Sec. 871-49 G. C.) specifically provides that only such films as are either of a moral, educational or amusing and harmless character may be passed by the Ohio board of censors."

DR. ABBEY PRAISES "BIRTH OF A NATION" AS A WORTHY LESSON

Asserts Photoplay Shows Negro's Actions After War Reflect on Unscrupulous Politicians

NOT UNFAIR TO BLACKS

By DR. CHARLOTTE ABBEY

As one who has formed a high estimate of the evolutionary possibilities of the Afro-American race through personal association with those interested in social work, I am sorry to find that an historical play such as "The Birth of a Nation" should be the cause of inciting race prejudice. The play teaches a mighty lesson to both white and colored, and it seems strange that lessons so plainly taught by the writer of the play should need to be pointed out.

Through bloodshed the United States arose, but at the very moment that the Stars and Stripes waved over the States there were those who for their own selfish ambition put into action forces that led to the racial prejudice that has since existed and which threatened to defeat the ideals of the man who freed the slave for the purpose of giving him opportunity to attain his humanitarian rights through right living.

An unscrupulous white politician does not understand the meaning of freedom any more than a colored politician of the same grade. To such the term "freedom" spells license. He has not yet attained to the mental and spiritual standard that enables a man of higher grade to see that only through obedience to the Divine law which Jesus upheld as the precedent of all laws, and which Lincoln obeyed, is the only means by which an individual or people can be worthy of freedom. In "The Birth of a Nation," the author clearly shows that the negroes' actions at the time they were freed were altogether the result of unscrupulous politicians, backed by one who, whilst he posed as a reformer, was really the slave of his own personal ambition; hence blinded to the true interest of all whom he was professing to help, and therefore the very antithesis of Lincoln. Most children, white or colored, can be bribed with candy or a nickel to do what is wrong, because so few have inherited that moral perception which enables them to do right for right's sake.

So it is with adults who have not had the education that would have developed their higher faculties; they can be persuaded when an appeal is made to inherited desires to do as the one who bribes them wishes.

It is said that "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing." This applies most assuredly to an education that fails to make the law of love to God and thought for others the basis of all progress. We have in consequence of this failure our low-grade criminals and our high-grade ones, those more highly educated making fools of the lower grades to accomplish their own ends.

A religion that fails to bring the emotional and intellectual faculties of man's nature into united action, through showing the relation of Divine law to a life of kindness and usefulness is, of all powers, the most criminal, for it professes to have the well-being of the human race at heart, and yet keeps it in ignorance of the evolutionary purpose of life—that purpose which Jesus emphatically taught in the Lord's Prayer and the Sermon on the Mount. Drama should be the history of life teaching vital truth.

This "The Birth of a Nation" does and without any wish to be unfair to the colored race. If there are some white people so narrow in their outlook that they cannot see the enormous difference between an ignorant slave on the plantation, whose whole heredity and environment had made him the slave of his sex instinct, and the upright living, and industrious colored man and woman who have learned to control their instincts, and are bringing up their children to become self-respecting citizens, such white people are forfeiting their birthright of justice as Esau did, for a mess of pottage (prejudice). The writer gained three important truths from witnessing the drama, "The Birth of a Nation."

First. That license, the following out of one's own selfish desires or tendencies, will be mistaken for freedom until the law of love for God (our ideal of all that is good and beautiful) and thought for others and made the basis of all education, religious or secular.

Second. Universal suffrage is the ideal of political freedom, but neither white or colored man or woman should be allowed the privilege of suffrage unless each has a clean moral record of not less than seven years.

Third. A nation will only be truly birthed when children are taught to grow physically, mentally and morally great through kind and useful lives, the result of obedience to the divine law of the ages.

Surely the results of Afro-American training, illustrated in the "Birth of a Nation" by views of students at Hampton and other institutions, and the thorough exposure of unscrupulous white politicians and false reformers should be enough to do away with any feeling of resentment by the Afro-American race against the play.

April 1915

WOMEN TO CRITICISE "BIRTH OF A NATION"

Four Summoned as Witnesses in Hearing of Protest Against Motion Picture.

Opposition to "The Birth of a Nation," the film version of Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman," took a new turn yesterday when four prominent women were summoned to appear in Jefferson Market Court today to express their opinion of the production. They won't appear this morning, however, as the scheduled hearing will be postponed until a week from to-day.

James W. Osborne will appear for the protestors and Martin W. Littleton for D. W. Griffith, the producer. The resulting action is expected to overshadow the protest made to Mayor Mitchel.

Mr. Osborne was engaged by the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, of No. 70 Fifth Avenue. It objects to the two big scenes of the pictures, in one of which a negro chases a white girl over a cliff and in the other a mulatto politician tries to force marriage upon the daughter of his benefactor. The association admits these scenes have been modified but holds they have not been changed sufficiently.

Joel E. Spingarn, Chairman of the Board of the association, caused a letter to be sent to Mayor Mitchel calling his attention to that fact, but before that he had summonses served on those who are expected to be the star witnesses in court.

They are Mrs. Norman De R. Whitehouse, Miss Rosalie Jonas, Miss Mary White Ovington, authoress, Mrs. Helen Lansdowne and Frederic C. Howe, Chairman of the National Board of Censorship, who requested that his name be taken off the approval stamp of the National Board when a majority approved the film.

Miss Ovington went to see the pictures yesterday afternoon and said afterward she was ready to voice her disapproval of them. One of the interesting points is expected to be whether the women who criticise the pictures will object to its fundamental opposition to intermarriage of the races.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

SWEENEY'S OPINION OF "THE BIRTH OF A NATION" SUSTAINED BY PERCY HAMMOND

Dramatic Critic of the Chicago Daily Tribune Says Play Is Grotesque, Insolent and Absolutely "Barren of Plausibility."

W. Allison Sweeney Recites Facts About 'The Real Birth of a Nation.'"

Saturday, June 12, under the above, the contributing editor of the Chicago Defender reviewed the much talked of "movie." Sunday morning Percy Hammond, dramatic critic of the Chicago Daily Tribune, wrote as follows:

By Percy Hammond.

Mr. David W. Griffith, the producer of the play at the Illinois, did me the honor last week to ask me to tell him, frankly, what I thought of "The Birth of a Nation" as a work of dramatic art. I say that he did me an honor by this request, because he is indubitably a great man in his way. Mr. Griffith is an authority on the beat of the human heart; he feels to an atom what retards and what accelerates the rhythm of that susceptible organ. Moreover, he is a master of the means by which its contractions and dilatations in the theater are accomplished. He calculates with the uncanny intuition of a genius the cryptic relation of the eye to the right ventricle; he knows color and sound and motion to their ultimate detail, and he has the nerve and the vision to assemble them in a vast spectacle which is the peer (pictorially) of any historical pageant that I have ever seen, and I have seen them all.

I suspect, however, that "The Birth of a Nation" would be more admirable as drama were it less partnal as propaganda. Mr. Griffith, the son of a Confederate brigadier, explicably sees the Lost Cause as a hallowed one, with its followers suffering not ignobly the injustice and cruelty which are the prime attributes of most of their antagonists in the play.

The Ku Klux, about the holiness of whose exploits historians, President Wilson among them, express some doubt, are pictured as exalted seraphim, members of a righteous and indignant hierarchy who did no wrong. Sherman's army, on the other hand, is visualized as a drunken mob, addicted to murder and rapine, pillaging a sweet and lovely countryside. The caption to this episode infers a sneer at the "great conqueror," who marches to the sea while southern women and children, subtly brought into contrast, are hungry and in tears. Lee is to Grant as Hyperion to a wharf rat; and Thaddeus Stevens, at his worst an honest bigot, is presented as an evil and carnal miscegenist with a mulatto sweetheart. Since "The Birth of a Nation" purports to be a great historical document, it should include a picture or two of Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, for instance, and the burning of Thaddeus Stevens' home and iron mill in Chambersburg.

Mr. Griffith was no doubt impelled to these seemingly unfair extravagances by the Rev. Mr. Dixon, his collaborator, upon whose story, "The Clansman," "The Birth of a Nation," is founded. I believe Mr. Dixon to be sincere in his abhorrence of the Negro; he loathes the race and he is insistent in his aversion to the so-called Afro-American. With that emotion I have nothing to do, but I believe that were his method to be less that of a charlatan, if he were not so much a bad loser, if his squawks were less like those of a yellow dog, his mission would be more effectively accomplished. A propagandist who shows the cloven hoof so obviously as does Mr. Dixon in all his works is more or less ineffective. Mr. Griffith disavows him, but he is there just the same, eager, florid, tawdry, tricky, the apotheosis of unreconstruction, a sinister element throughout the story of "The Birth of a Nation."

Perhaps when I say "ineffective" I am wrong. The other night at the Illinois the crowd cheered the Stars and Bars, and it was not moved by the Stars and Stripes. It applauded "Dixie" and greeted "Marching Through Georgia" with silence. I confess the prejudice of one whose father and grandfather marched with Sherman to the sea and whose best boyhood friend was the statesman who drafted the fourteenth amendment. But I do not believe that in the attitude of the audiences of "The Birth of a Nation" there is much incentive to fighting for this indifferent republic in case the present impasse should develop into war.

That off my mind, I may tell Mr. Griffith what I think of him as an artist. Photographically and as a pageant master he is a marvel, but as a dramatist he is expedient rather than good. The absurd coincidences of the play are juvenile, maudlin and incredible. You cannot imagine Thaddeus Stevens, the sardonic and fanatic Negro lover, going to visit the fire-eating South Carolina Camerons at a time when the South's wounds were the sorest. And that expedition is the heart of the play. The whole thing is grotesque, insolent, and absolutely barren of plausibility. In the words of a shrewd director of the cinemas, "we treat our audiences like babes."

To me the most artistic thing in "The Birth of a Nation" is that real and photographic event of the assassination of Lincoln. There is a wonder work of action and stage management—with its irresistible alteration of scenes—the audience, the play, the President's box, the assassin, the con-

Brooklyn Eagle

27 June 1915

David W. Griffith's $500,000 film, "The Birth of a Nation," in many respects the most remarkable motion picture ever staged, will be shown to Brooklynites for the first time next Friday evening in the Brighton Beach Music Hall, where William H. Kemble, the manager, will present it at a gala performance with an orchestra of fifty pieces.

This picturized version of Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman" portrays some of the most important events in American history, notably the assassination of President Lincoln, the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to General U. S. Grant, the battle of Gettysburg, Sherman's march to the sea, the flight of the inhabitants from Atlanta when he approached, scenes of desolation on the battlefield, fighting in trenches and on the plateau, and other historic scenes, which are unfolded as they occurred in this period of American history.

The assassination of President Lincoln in Ford's Theater in Washington is one of the most remarkable scenes and is pictured from description furnished by historians and men and women who were present when Booth fired the fatal shot. Lincoln is seen enjoying the performance, then putting a shawl around his shoulders as the temperature falls in the house, and finally collapsing as the assassin's bullet strikes him.

The battle scenes are the most realistic ever presented on the screen. Eighteen thousand persons, three thousand horses and thousands of shells were used in the conflicts. Mr. Griffith, who spent eight months and hundreds of thousands of dollars producing this now famous picture, shows the soldiers fighting in trenches, battling at breastworks, charging over fields with bayonets flashing, fire flashes from the mouths of cannon and concealed batteries, a panorama of marching and counter marching troops as they seek positions of vantage, men dropping from bullets, shells exploding in the air in a blaze of fire, friend meeting friend on opposite sides in the sanguinary conflict and other scenes descriptive of the carnage of battle.

These battles, exact reproductions of those of the Civil War, were produced on a three-mile front with 18,000 soldiers quartered off into regiments and battalions. Modern guns and of the type of Civil War days were used to give the desired effect.

No less remarkable than the battle scenes, the assassination of President Lincoln, who is strikingly impersonated by Joseph Henabery, the surrender of Lee, Sherman's march to the sea and other scenes, are scenes that followed the war when the carpet-baggers incited the negroes of the South to rise against the whites. There follows pictures of bloodshed, of battles between the negroes and the whites, the organization of the famous Ku Klux Klansmen and their midnight rides and deeds which eventually led to the return of the domination of the whites and the restoration of peace throughout the South.

Throughout the picture are two love stories, in which a Colonel of the South loves the sister of an officer of the North and the officer of the North loves the sister of the Colonel in the South.

In order to get the true atmosphere for the entire picture, Mr. Griffith consulted 185 authorities and followed closely five histories of the United States, including President Wilson's "History of the American People." Eighteen authorities alone were consulted to arrange the scene of Lincoln's assassination and picture the escape of Booth. The picture will be shown twice a day, once in the afternoon and again in the evening, including Sundays.

June 1915

CENSORS "OK" THE FILM PLAY

Vote Not to Stop "The Birth of a Nation."

Hear Arguments, Then Spend 40 Minutes in Debate.

Members of Board Decline to Give Reasons.

The photo play, "The Birth of a Nation," so far as the new Board of Censors is concerned, will be allowed to continue.

This was the conclusion reached yesterday after hearing arguments by both sides of the controversy about it and an executive deliberation of 40 minutes. The conclusion of the board was announced in the following language:

"The officials designated by Chapter 348, Acts of 1915, having received a petition from certain citizens requesting that performances of 'The Birth of a Nation' be stopped by them under the authority given to them by the statute, having witnessed the performance, heard counsel representing the protesters and the licensee and having given full consideration to the entire subject, have decided that the license of the theatre should not be revoked or suspended."

No Reasons Are Given.

Mayor Curley, chairman of the censorship board, after the other two members, Chief Justice Bolster of the Municipal Court and Police Commissioner O'Meara, had retired, declined to add to the official announcement. The Chief Justice and Commissioner O'Meara also declined to comment.

The board was in session from 4:15 to 7:10 p m. At 7:15 Mayor Curley was speeding in his auto to New Bedford, where he was under promise to attend a christening, being due at 7:30.

The fact that the Mayor postponed his departure emphasized the determination of the board to reach a decision last night. The entire session was behind closed doors.

Soon after the board assembled Mayor Curley opened a door to the outer corridor and told the large gathering of colored remonstrants who had been collecting for two hours that the board would admit a lawyer representing the remonstrants and one representing the Tremont Theatre.

Four Lawyers Admitted.

J. Mott Hallowell, William H. Lewis and Butler R. Wilson said they represented the remonstrants, and were admitted, as was John F. Cusick, for the theatre.

Independent May 6-15

DRAMATIZED RACE PREJUDICE

It is a great pity that good photography and fine mass action should be wasted and worse than wasted on such a theme as that of *The Birth of a Nation*. Mr. D. W. Griffith has surpassed himself as a producer and some of the scenes are as striking as any that have ever been filmed. Sherman's march to the sea and Pickett's charge at Gettysburg are shown "as large as life" and the assassination of Lincoln is presented with a careful attention to detail that gives it a real historic interest.

But all this is subordinated to the immoral lesson which the play is designed to teach, that the negro is ever a savage and must not under any circumstances be allowed to vote or to rise from a servile or subordinate position. The Rev. Thomas Dixon's *Clansman* supplies the plot, but the filmed play is much worse than the book because seeing a thing is more impressive than being told about it. The grotesque excesses of the Reconstruction Period are made the most of and twice in the course of the evening the struggles of a white girl to escape from a black brute are presented at agonizing length. By an ingenious sequence of scenes the audience is led to applaud the Ku Klux Klan whenever it appears, even where it drives the negroes from the polls. Music lends insidious aid to emphasize the teaching of the screen, for the tom-tom beats from time to time to convince us that the colored man, well drest and educated tho he may be, came from Africa. Why is not some Asiatic instrument used to remind us that the Aryan came from the wrong side of the Caucasus?

Such a play, insulting as it is to a large part of our population and arousing the worst sentiments in the rest, is, in our opinion, vastly more dangerous in its influence than the obscenity or lessons in practical burglary which are now quite rightly ruled out. Still we do not hold with those who are trying to get it suppress by law or the censorship. We do not see by what reason the voluntary Board of Censorship required the elimination of the legend: "Having profited by the trade and having no use for slaves themselves, the traders of the Seventeenth Century became the Abolitionists of the Nineteenth." This is a monstrous perversion of history, but supposing it is, Mr. Dixon and Mr. Griffith apparently believe it, and if so we cannot deny them the right to express their opinion in their own impressive way, as we express ours in the feebler medium of cold type. Still more dangerous than such a play would be to have the American people put into the hands of any officials the power to decide what is good history and bad, and to suppress any films that they regard as likely to have an injurious influence on public sentiment. Before long perhaps some reformer will write a scenario attacking some established institution of the moder world, as *Uncle Tom's Cabin* attacked slavery and it would be unfortunate then to have the suppression of *The Birth of a Nation* to appeal to as a precedent for similar action.

"The Birth of a Nation"

Chicago Tribune. Advertiser 6-4-15

The moving picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," is, in our opinion, the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers. It ranks with "Cabiria" as a tremendous spectacle and for the American temperament it has points of artistic advantage over the D'Annunzio photoplay.

In Chicago it has thus far been barred from production. It is not immoral or coarse. It does not offend for any of the reasons which usually cause the prohibition of picture plays or the elimination of scenes from them. It is in all essential episodes grounded on historical fact, representing the struggles of that terrible time in the South when the whites, back from war, saw their government taken over by the newly enfranchised blacks controlled by the Northern carpetbaggers.

What happened with the negro ascendant and how the white re-established his supremacy is shown with obvious natural sympathy for the South, and no doubt with such heightening of effect as dramatic art has a right to employ. It presents what the South says and the North of our day, at least, is inclined to believe to be truth.

The production of this photoplay is prohibited in Chicago. The book from which the scenario was taken was not suppressed. It could not be, although it was violent. The play made from the book was not suppressed, although, it also being violent, there were requests that it be. The photoplay alone gets the subject into such form that a prohibition is ordered.

Here is a question of freedom in expression which will give any thoughtful person cause for reflection. We assert our right to such freedom within the obvious bounds of common decency and morality. "The Birth of a Nation" does not offend against either. This film draws upon veritable pages from the history of the country, embodies men and women of whom the pages treat, and they re-enact their struggles. We then say that citizens may not be permitted to see it.

The Tribune has been and is opposed to interference with freedom of expression, but it confesses that the subject here involved has complexities which do not yield to the application of ordinary rules. The terrible concrete reality of the moving picture is the disturbing factor and the consequent emotional response of the spectator is the disturbing result. The sin of the film is its effectiveness.

A lecturer with ability to touch men's susceptibilities might take this subject and do his emotional best with it and we doubt that a voice would be raised to stop him. Such people as might go to hear him would have their feelings made more acute, might have their prejudices heightened, but in the end the chief result would be that they knew more about the days of reconstruction.

The moving picture not so much makes its spectators know more about the period; it makes them live through it, vicariously but intensely, and the city government has said, in effect, that the citizens of Chicago ought not to live through it, and they ought not, as a matter of public policy, to enter a theatre from which they must come with prejudices and race hatreds inflamed.

If the validity of this argument be questioned, as it is bound to be, let the consideration of the subject go further. We may suppose that one producing company has selected the time of the Spanish inquisition for film purposes, or that another has taken the persecution of the Irish Catholics by Cromwell, and that either play or both, done after the manner of "Cabiria" and "The Birth of a Nation," were put in Chicago theatres. Would it be public policy to permit the productions?

IT is not unnatural for Mr. David Griffith to misunderstand the opposition aroused by his play, "The Birth of a Nation," but the suppression of that film in Chicago has provoked him to malicious absurdity. Interviewed last Sunday in the Chicago *Herald* he is made to declare that "the most active workers against this film have been the people who believe in the intermarriage of the races." This is an accusation quite characteristic of the tone of "The Birth of a Nation." It has about the same relation to accuracy, to decency, to good feeling, as the film itself. It insinuates a motive in persons like Miss Jane Addams, Mrs. Joseph Bowen, and similar active opponents of the film which is too ridiculous to have validity even as spite. The disgust and anger aroused by this photoplay does not require any predilection for intermarriage. All it requires is a consciousness of the shocking evil of race prejudice, and the baseness of playing subtly on the white man's credulity and his egoism.

Birth of a Nation.

G. M. H.—Some time ago I witnessed "The Birth of a Nation" and was puzzled to know who "Stoneman" was. Was he Thad Stevens? Our historians tell us almost nothing about Stevens and absolutely nothing, as far as I can discover, about some of the things shown in this film, and yet they are represented as being taken from records at Washington. Was a colored man ever really Governor of a Southern State?

"Stoneman" is based on Thaddeus Stevens. If you will consult histories of the reconstruction period, or lives of the men prominent at that time, you will find his career and the period itself fully described. Nicolay and Hay's "Life of Lincoln," Rhode's "History of the United States," Vols. VI. and VII.; "The Reconstruction Period," by Schouler; Pike's "The Prostrate State," Bancroft's "The Negro," Life of Thaddeus Stevens, and of Seward, will give you plenty of light on this period.

About 1872, after the passing of the Fifteenth Amendment, colored men were chosen for local and State offices under the new Constitutions of the readmitted States. There were colored Lieutenant Governors of Louisiana, South Carolina, and Mississippi. In South Carolina the Legislature of 1868 contained ninety colored to fifty-six white, in 1879 ninety-one colored to sixty-one white, and in 1872 ninety-four colored to thirty white representatives. There were 85,475 negro voters and 62,547 white.

A "carpet-bagger" was Governor from 1868 to 1872, and a native white of South Carolina from 1872 to 1874; both were men of bad repute. The Lieutenant Governor, Treasurer, and other State officers were negroes. The President of the Senate and the Speaker, Clerk, and Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House were also negroes during this period.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

NEGRO WOMEN FINED FOR RIOTING AT THE TREMONT

Would-Be Male Rescuers Also Found Guilty and Appeal Will Be Taken—The Cases of Trotter and Puller Are Still on Trial.

The cases of four more of the negroes arrested in connection with the trouble at the Tremont Theatre on the night of April 17 were finished before Judge Brackett yesterday and the last two were taken up, but not concluded at the time court adjourned. Three were convicted and fined and one was found not guilty. Appeals were taken in all convictions and the defendants were released in their own recognizance in bonds of $100.

Clara Foskey was convicted of the charge of assaulting Patrolman Van Lanningham and fined $15. Lugenia Foster was fined $5 for attempting to rescue the Foskey woman and $1 for assaulting an unknown man with her handbag. Stephen Massey was fined $5 for attempting a rescue and James Bivens was found not guilty on a similar charge. When the findings were announced, Edgar Benjamin, counsel for the four, thanked the court for his leniency, but said he intended taking the matter as far along through the courts as he could and asked that an appeal be recorded.

When these cases were concluded but an hour remained and in that time the case of William M. Trotter, editor of a negro publication, and Rev. Aron Puller, charged with inciting a riot and disturbing the peace, were called. A sergeant from the Lagrange street station was the first witness and told the court that the two were asked to leave the lobby of the theatre at the same time several hundred other negroes were. He said they both refused to go and further told their followers not to go, as they had a right to see the show.

The office said he informed Trotter, Puller and others that there were no tickets for sale. He said they replied that they did not believe him. Under cross-examination the sergeant admitted he arrested the pair that night and charged them with disturbing the peace. The next day, he said, the charge of inciting a riot was lodged against them. That was done, he said, under instructions. With the case that far along adjournment was taken until this morning.

DULUTH EDITOR SHOWS BROAD MIND

"Birth of a Nation" a Misnomer —It's a "Lie" All the Way Through—Unwholesome, Degrading and Neurotic Is Fitly Applied to Film Story.

We are pleased to publish the editorial from the Duluth, Minn., daily Sunday paper in which it is shown that we are still blessed with a few good thinking men that are not swayed by prejudice. The editorial follows:

"The Birth of a Nation" is a mismomer; in fact, both in name and substance it is a lie. It is a photo play that never should be permitted in Duluth nor anywhere else. Its authorship alone is enough to condemn it. This is not a case at all analogus to having fun with or ridiculing, on the stage, the Irish, Germans, Swedes, British, Japanese, Jews, farmers and what not. They are used to add to the hilarity of comedy, the pathos of melodrama and quite frequently become the heroes. They are always the friends of the audience and their audiences are friends of theirs. There is always mutual good feeling. "The Birth of a Nation" is not on this order. Its whole aim and purpose is not to caricature the black race, but to depict it as debased and brutal. It is a story based on reconstruction days, a time that every true American should do his utmost to forget; a time in our history which as history is read from necessity, not from desire or in pride of accomplishment. It idealizes and glorifies the Ku Klux and villifies the Negro. None are without sin and so none can afford to throw stones, at least in public places. The verities of this story could be reversed with equal accuracy and equally deplorable results. The Ku Klux is gone; it was an emergency organization of which the best and the worst has been said.

The Negro is here. His struggles and pains are a part of our own history. No other race under like opportunities, with like beginnings, has done more in its own elevation. They are a peaceful, happy people. They have the same feelings as ours. Their crimes are those of individuals, not of a race, and we have no right to indict the race. As monstrous crimes could be culled against the white race as Dixon has evolved from a putrid [illegible] against the black men. The whole tenor of this film story is unwholesome, degrading, neurotic. Regardless of its immediate subject, it is exactly the sort that should be censored to death. It is not history. It is a travesty on history. It does not concern what should be kept alive in the hearts and minds of a people. It is not healing, educative, amusing or informing. It is more like a fester and can gratify only the morbid inclination, or that sentiment which seeks the running sores on others as mental pabulum. There may be no one thing or scene worse in itself than some one thing or scene in other films. It is the whole purpose that condemns this play. It is aimed to arouse prejudice, where there should be kindliness and helpfulness; to recreate what is dead and never should have lived, and to hurt the blameless in a most hideously cruel fashion.

"THE BIRTH OF A NATION."

George H. Thomas Post, G. A. R., Appropriately Denounces It.

Chicago, Ill.—George H. Thomas Post, this city, appointed a committee to investigate the play "The Birth of a Nation." The report, which gives well-deserved censure, was unanimously adopted and sent to department headquarters. It reads:

"The play is a remarkable work of art, but is meant to reproduce in substance the book of Thomas Dixon, entitled, "The Clansman," whose chief purpose is to glorify the cause of secession, create and intensify hatred against the Negro and make it appear that the infamous Ku-Klux-Klan was an organization of chivalrous white men, to defend the people.

"In the moving picture show there is one scene that represents a company of United States soldiers in uniform, commanded by a white officer, in possession of a town, shooting and burning and acting like fiends. History does not record a single instance of the kind. It is a base slander on the men who wore the blue. The Negroes represented in the picture are low-down criminals, and totally debased. To people ignorant of the facts they make the impression that Colored people are a depraved and criminal race governed only by brutal lusts. It has no suggestion as to the great advance made by the Negroes since emancipation, in religion, education, in property and usefulness as citizens.

"The main point of the play seems to be to show that as to slavery and secession the south was altogether right, and that in the civil war and reconstruction the men who defended the Union were wholly wrong. The whole influence of the exhibition is to excite sectional feeling and bitterness, and its representations are utterly false to history.

"We recommend the adoption of the following resolution: "The George H. Thomas Post, No. 5, Department of Illinois, G. A. R., protests against the exhibition called "The Birth of a Nation."

"First—Because it contains slanderous representations as to the soldiers who fought to preserve the Union and caricatures the history of the war.

"Second—It represents the infamous Ku-Klux-Klan as a society of patriotic chivalrous men.

"Third—Its whole influence is to excite and intensify hatred of the Negro race and perpetuate sectional bitterness. Signed—Duncan C. Milner, George C. Barker, E. G. Ingersoll, W. J. Liberton, committee."

It is a good thing to be deaf when a slanderer begins to talk.

Reading makes a full man; conference a ready man; and writing an exact man.

If we are quite sure we are doing the Lord's will, that we are in the place where He desires us to be in, we need take no thoughts beyond the work of the day.

NEW YORK CALL

March 1915

ANTI-NEGRO FILM OWNERS FORCED TO CUT 2 SCENES

Mayor Mitchel Tells Prominent Objectors That Parts Stirring Up Race Hatred Are Eliminated.

Victory came to the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People in its fight against the producers of the "The Birth of a Nation" film. It was in the form of a public announcement from Mayor Mitchel to a large delegation of persons protesting against the film, that the production had been radically changed to fulfill the demands of the objectors.

Miss May Child Nerney, secretary of the association, for weeks had been seeking to arrange a public hearing of the protest before the Mayor. The latter finally agreed to meet the delegation yesterday noon.

After a number of strong addresses were made, the executive announced that following the advance arrangement of the hearing, he had seen the play in question and had conferred with its producers. As a result, he said, the owners volunteered to remove two scenes in the second act, which had been the particular cause of the severe criticism.

Court Proceedings Postponed.

The injunction hearing which had been set for yesterday afternoon at Jefferson Market Police Court, was postponed to Thursday morning, at 10:30 o'clock. Miss Nerney asserted yesterday afternoon that in view of the signal victory brought about by Mayor Mitchel's action, it might be decided to withdraw the criminal proceedings entirely.

"I will have to see the play first, however," she said, "and make sure that the objectional scenes have really been eliminated."

The delegation that called on Mayor Mitchel was headed by Prof. J. E. Spingarn, chairman of the national association. He introduced the following speakers in the order named: Frederick C. Howe, chairman of the

National Board of Censorship; Dr. William H. Brooks, colored, pastor of St. Mark's M. E. Church, who represented the colored clergy; Miss Lillian B. Wald, secretary of the Henry Street Settlement, who represented the social workers and in effect spoke for white women; Dr. W. E. Dubois, colored, editor of the Crisis; Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, representing the white clergy; Frederick R. Moore, colored, editor of the New York Age, representing the colored press; G. E. Widecan, of the Brooklyn Citizens' Club, and Oswald Villard, publisher of the New York Evening Post, representing the press.

Present Three Objections.

The various speakers pointed out three primary objections to the presentation of the film: First, that it caricatured the colored race, delineating only the lowest types of the race and ignoring the good types, which could be done to the disadvantage of any race; second, that for this reason the film might very easily incite the people to race riots, and, third, that its whole tendency was to inspire race hatred.

Rabbi Wise pointed out that the war in Europe was engendered by race hatred. He asserted the tendency of the film in question was to revive all the evil elements of sectionalism that existed after the Civil War, and that ought to be dead and buried now.

Other speakers recalled the violent race disturbances that occurred in Philadelphia four years ago as a direct result of the presentation of "The Clansman," the play built upon Thomas Dixon's novel of that name, which is also the origin of the present film.

The association has been carrying its protests for weeks to various arms of the city government. Commissioner Woods has been appealed to, the Council and the Mayor have been informed of its objections. Mayor Mitchel's action yesterday is declared a complete victory.

Censor Had Not Approved Film.

The two scenes eliminated at his request are respectively the one in which a colored man is depicted pursuing a white girl with brutal intent and one showing a mulatto politician forcing the daughter of his white benefactor to marry him.

Mr. Howe, chairman of the Board of Censorship, asserted that he had not approved of the film when his associates had finally passed it. He declared it had first been passed, then condemned, then approved again against his judgment.

Mayor Mitchel at the close of the speeches, and in the course of his statement of the film revision, said he had seen the film and that he held the same views as had been expressed by members of the delegation.

Philadelphia Public Ledger
1st 1915

NEGRO PROTEST STOPS FILM PLAY

Atlantic City Director of Public Safety Suppresses "Birth of Nation"

THREATS OF VIOLENCE LEAD HIM TO ACT

Detectives Report That Racial Trouble Was Likely to Result

Special Telegram to Public Ledger

ATLANTIC CITY, Apg. 13.—Fearing ace violence on the Boardwalk, William I. Bartlett, Director of Public Safety, ate today issued an order forbidding the resentation of the "Birth of a Nation," film drama, in Atlantic City.

The production, which has been shown or several weeks at the New Nixon, a Boardwalk playhouse owned and conducted by Philadelphians, deals ith reconstruction times in the South and the Ku Klux Klan.

Acting under instructions from the City Commission, which yesterday heard burning protests from more than 100 negro churchmen, who declared the play incited race hatred, Director Bartlett sent to the Nixon Theatre management tonight notice of his intention to suppress the film drama after Sunday night next by police measures if necessary.

Director Bartlett's summary action, regardless of an informal opinion from City Solicitor Schimpf that he is without power to act, followed a conference with Chief of Police Woodruff. Woodruff early today sent plain-clothes men through the black belt of thec ity, where nearly 10,000 negroes have their homes, to sound sentiment and ascertain whether it is so bitter as colored pastors and laymen represented to the City Commission yesterday.

Detectives Hear Threats

Woodruff's men reported that they found sections of the back town in a ferment, with men, women and children congregating in the streets to talk about the film and the attack upon their race they claim it carries. Threats of violence were made freely in the saloons patronized by colored men. The detectives heard proposals to attack the Boardwalk playhouse.

Woodruff's reports reached Director Bartlett at 6 o'clock this evening and his order of suppression was drawn and signed 20 minutes later.

Earlier in the day Bartlett intimated the belief that agitators were seeking to make political capital out of the matter, and endeavoring to align the colored vote against him unless he took action without precedent in the city.

Reports of Woodruff's men changed the whole phase of the situation for him. "This matter is evidently serious," the Director said. "Whether police action is justified under a strict interpretation of law or not, we are going to do our utmost to suppress this cause of contention. We cannot afford to have violence in Atlantic City if it is possible to avert it, and that is the attitude we shall pursue."

There is much division of opinion among visitors here as to the film. Many believe that it teaches a lesson and should be shown as widely as possible. Other believe just as strongly that there is no reason for recalling the fearful conditions following the Rebellion in the Southland an darousing race prejudice.

One of the strongest scenes in the film drama shows a negro vagabond pursuing a small white girl through the woods. She finally leaps from a cliff and is killed. Then the Klu Klux Klan gathers by night and carry its death and destruction among the negroes.

Hotel men here indorsed Bartlett's action tonight. Nothing could be worse, many of them said, than to have any serious racial disturbance in Atlantic City with the midcummer season near its height. There are probably 20,000 Southern people in the city. Most of them have seen the Ku Klux pictures and declare them an educational achievement.

The fact that conditions in the negro sections should be sufficiently serious to call for the suppression order caused no little uneainess. It wa declared tonight that threats to start a stampede in the Boardwalk theatre were made in front of City Hall yesterday while the protest committee was demanding that the City Committion take action to avert possible violence.

30 March 1916

NEGROES MAKE A PROTEST TO MAYOR

THEIR OBJECTION TO FILM PLAY, "BIRTH OF A NATION."

Mr. Mitchel Tells Large Delegation from National Association for Advancement of Colored People that Manager of Moving Picture Has Promised to Delete Two Scenes Which Are Believed to Incite Race Antagonism and Hatred.

A delegation from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was granted a hearing in the Board of Estimate Room at City Hall today to protest against the production of the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," based upon Thomas A. Dixon's book, "The Clansman." Dr. J. E. Spingarn, chairman of the board of directors, introduced a number of speakers, some of whom were prominent negroes. The room was crowded by several hundred prominent men and women, white and colored people, the latter comprising all the leaders of the race in this city, Brooklyn, and Jersey City, as well.

In three-minute addresses each speaker emphasized the deplorable effects which would ensue from a continued production of the film in its present shape. Racial antagonisms, historical injustice, and a corrupting moral effect upon the growing generation were some of the reasons urged upon the Mayor as grounds for his action. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mayor Mitchel, with whom sat Commissioner George H. Bell, of the Department of Licenses, announced that owners of the film and the management of the theatre had already consented to excise from the production the two scenes which were particularly offensive to negroes and fair-minded persons, and it was his understanding that this would be done to-day.

The Mayor told the large gathering, which completely filled the chamber, that he had been greatly impressed by the objections made to the production. He had himself viewed it, he said, and concurred in the feeling that it might perhaps incite to breaches of the peace, and he had already moved in the matter through his Commissioner of Licenses. Upon being informed by the Commissioner of the city administration's attitude toward the film, the management had consented to cut out the two scenes objected to.

This, the Mayor was careful to point out, had been done without any attempt on his part to exercise any powers which might be given him by statute. The breadth and force of such powers were in doubt, he said, but if it was found necessary to take the matter up again he would take such steps as were authorized by law.

UNDER BAN IN PHILADELPHIA.

Dr. Spingarn, the first speaker, called to the Mayor's attention the action of the Mayors of Philadelphia and Boston in putting Mr. Dixon's production under the ban, and the subsequent sustaining of the Philadelphia Mayor's action in the courts. Frederic C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration and chairman of the National Board of Censorship, appeared unofficially as a citizen to protest, he said, against the effect of the film production upon ten million citizens who were degraded in the eyes of millions of others. The portrayal of the negro as a lustful, degraded creature, was a cruel, vindictive, and untrue degradation of a part of the country's citizenship which was inarticulate on account of having no voice in the legislatures and newspapers.

A half-dozen other speakers voiced their objections and appealed to the Mayor to interfere. W. E. B. Du Bois, editor of the *Crisis*, pointed out that many persons were constantly at work to stir up prejudice against the white and colored races, and that this was the last time and the last place in which such a propaganda, furthered by a new machine, ought to be permitted.

Edward R. Moore, the colored editor of the *New Age*, expressed the confidence of the negro citizens of New York that the Mayor would not permit them to be characterized as beasts. Miss Lilian D. Wald asserted that it was impossible to measure the potential dangers of the production at the Liberty Theatre. She questioned the truth of the representation, and declared that even if it were true, this was no time to arouse people's feelings to fever heat on sectional subjects. The Rev. Mr. Brooks, of the Fifty-third Street Church, also made an eloquent plea.

The Rev. Stephen S. Wise denounced the attack upon the negro race contained in the "Birth of a Nation" as most cowardly in that it was made against a people unable to speak for itself, and he instanced the Irish protest against "The Playboy of the Western World," which he characterized as a charming bit of poetry.

"If the Board of Censorship had been wise and decent instead of stupid and worse," said Rabbi Wise, "the appeal to the Mayor would never have been necessary."

This fact made him the more unhappy, he said, because he was attached to the Board in a nominal capacity with a great many others who had no part in its action. Oswald Garrison Villard also protested against the continued production of the film.

New York Press

April

FIGHT NEGRO "MOVIE" BAN

Producers of "The Birth of a Nation" Appear Before the Mayor.

Protest was entered yesterday against the efforts of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People to have the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," in the Liberty Theatre, stopped. Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," on which the photo-play is based; D. W. Griffith, the producer, and Martin W. Littleton, their attorney, appeared in the City Hall before Mayor Mitchel and asked that a conference be arranged with George N. Bell, Commissioner of Licenses, to find out just what must be eliminated from the photo-play.

In Jefferson Market Court yesterday Magistrate McQuade held a hearing of the summons served on Harry Aitken and Griffith. The case was adjourned until Thursday next, after the assertion by a representative for the association that the objectionable scenes will be eliminated. Littleton said the theatre has been notified it must make eliminations.

The lawyer filed with the Mayor a letter from the Rev. Dr. Charles H Parkhurst, in which the clergyman praises the picture play and urges its continuance without change.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

Mrs. Chas. W. Scrutchin Has Clansman Taken from Bemidji, Minn., Library

The Chicago Defender
5/15/15

Bemidji, Minn., May 14 (Special).—Through the efforts of Mrs. Charles W. Scrutchin, wife of the noted race attorney of that name, the "Clansman" by Tom Dixon has been removed from the Public Library. The library board is composed entirely of white women, but the attorney's wife had sufficient influence with them to have the obnoxious volume removed. Minnesota is pleased to be among the states to give the persistent Tom Dixon a knockout blow.

30 April 1915

NEGROES WARN MAYOR FILMS MAY START RIOT

Prominent Whites Also Demand Southern Photoplay Be Censored as a Slur on Race.

MITCHEL TELLS THEM SCENES HAVE BEEN CUT

Mayor Mitchel to-day received a delegation of indignant negroes, who were accompanied by Oswald Garrison Villard, Rabbi Stephen Wise and Frederick C. Howe, commissioner of immigration, and heard a protest against a motion picture play in which, they claimed, the negro is maligned.

Bitter denunciations of the producers marked the protestants, who uttered vague warnings that unless the play was stopped or altered a race riot would shake the city.

The mayor told the delegation he had viewed the production and his request several scenes had been eliminated. He said the censored film would be run for the first time today.

The delegation was so big that the mayor received them in the oBard of Estimate chamber.

Rabbi Denounces Film.

Rabbi Wise said:

If it is true that the mayor has no power to stop this indescribably foul and loathsome libed on a race of human beings, then it is true that government has broken down.

The board of consors which allowed this exhibition to go is stupid or worse. I regret I am a member. The producers are contemptible cowards. The negroes in this city have been patient. They have not yet risen, like the Irish, who attacked the "Playboy of the West." The Irish saw the playboy as a caricature not as a characterization.

Stop this production, Mr. Mayor, and you will render a great and abiding service to the people of this country.

Calls Play Immoral.

Oswald G. Villard, vice-president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, told the mayor the production was "improper, immoral and unjust."

"I stake whatever reputation I may have as a historical student on my charges against the film play," said Mr. Viard. "The ugging in of the negro into this exhibition is needess and uncalled for, and the play would be improved upon in every aspect if the objectionable scenes were taken out."

The negros found a strong champion in Commissioner Howe, chairman of the National Board of Censors. He said:

I am here as a citizen. The ground of my protest is that the play affects 10,000,000 citizens who are degraded by this production. One-half deals with war. The other half portrays the negro as a lustful and degraded creature.

This portrayal of the negro, as a depraved creature, is cruel, vindictive and untrue.

Miss Lillian D. Wald declared "it is impossibel to measure the potential dangers that threaten us if the production is allowed to go on."

"I do not believe it is historically true," she continued.

The negroes were loud in approval of the speakers' sentiments. Dr. Wise repeatedly begged them to desist from handclapping.

Defends His Race.

For the negroes Fred R. Moore, editor of the New York "Age," hammered home hte claims of his race in this city for fair play. He said:

We have never been beggars. We have never asked charity. All we have asked is a fair chance. We don't stoop to anarchy.

We never had a man among us who fired on the president of the United States. We never had a man among us who attempted to assassinate the mayor of this city.

The mayor said that his views of the objectionable features had been intimated to the producers, who made the changes. The mayor said it was a serious question if he had power to order the changes.

URGES NEGROES TO COOL DOWN

Hallowell Tells Race That Violence Against Film Play Would Alienate Friends.

In an open letter issued last night to the Negro citizens of Boston, J. Mott Hallowell urges them not to resort to violence to stop the further production of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," which has been sanctioned by the new board of censors appointed as a result of the legislative agitation against the film. "Rise superior to your defeat and by your daily lives and example of good citizenship give the lie to your traducers," he advises.

Following is the letter in full:

"To the Colored Citizens of Greater Boston: It has been threatened to resort to violence in order to stop the further production in Boston of 'The Birth of a Nation.'

"When you fight, fight hard; but never begin a fight until you have cooled off and thought the matter out and are sure you are right in starting the fight. Then if you do go in, go in as hard as you can.

"The greatest generals are those who can turn defeat into victory. 'For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.' You have now in this local contest two paths before you. One is to use violence against a superior force, in which course you will alienate many who are now your friends and will turn your local and temporary defeat into a general rout. The other is to rise superior to your defeat and by your daily lives and example of good citizenship give the lie to your traducers. Choose this bigger and wiser course. It may seem hard at first, but it is wiser in the end.

"The real struggle for you is not the struggle against this film; the latter is merely an episode in a race epoch. The real struggle is that of a race seeking its way out of bondage. The way is hard and your path is beset with difficulties. But ultimately you will win. And the measure of your success, in the long run, will be the kind of citizens that you show yourselves to be. 'And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.'

"J. MOTT HALLOWELL."

Brooklyn Eag e

22 July 1915

"BIRTH OF NATION" SCORED

Thinks Wrong Views Have Been Taken of History.

Editor Brooklyn Daily Eagle:

I have visited twice "The Birth of the Nation" moving pictures. My judgment is that it ought to be either modified or withdrawn. By its agonizing appeals to tender sympa y, and its misstatements of history in the programme, it is galvanizing the dormant seeds of State sovereignty virus. It is a racketty and hair-lifting production, but it gives a false tone and is ripping up old sores. It is bringing discredit to the National Government, and its war records. All through this panorama there is exaggeration of both good and evil—the good among the secessionists and the evil of personal marauders in the National Army and the adventurers in reconstruction. Beware of war. They who commence it must suffer the consequences of fallen human nature. I was through the Civil War, from the first hour to the last, and was considerably awake before and after it. The author of this show gives in his programme very erroneous texts. He represents the would-be seceders as a lovely, refined, Utopian, Christian people, invaded and outraged by barbarous Huns. He does not state that our brethren commenced war upon "the best Government the world ever saw," in a "causeless and wicked rebellion," slaughtering a quarter of a million of patriots who were defending the authority of their nation and bringing sorrow to every loyal family in the land, North, South, East and West. The title of these "movies" is a misnomer, an anachronism. The nation did not have its birth in the '60s. It was conceived in 1776, born in 1778, confirmed in 1787, and grew to a giant down to 1861 when he defended his life the best he knew how.

Dr. Griffith, the author, says: "Peaceful secession was scarcely disputed, North or South." What! Two millions of Americans rushed immediately to arms against disrupting the Union, and the wisdom of congresses, legislatures, the pulpit and the press sustained them. Although Massachusetts talked secession, she never tried it. President Jackson sent a Kentucky colonel there with a Federal battalion to watch them. He reported back to the Government that they did no act disloyal to the Government. Dr. Griffith should put in his programmes that the Colonies, in declaring their independence, used the phrase "these United States," and called themselves "one people." The word "States" was simply an abstract compliment, and while in co-operative war they forestalled any State sovereignty and declared four times that the Union should be "perpetual." In that compact every vestige of sovereignty was denied the Colonies. They never had an instant of sovereignty from Christopher Columbus down to this time. In 1787 this "perpetual" Union was made a "more perfect Union." So we see the nation was born then, and after about eighty years of knitting together was saved in the '60s. It is a canon of law that a nation will not give up its life without a struggle. But what happened? Human slavery was our world-wide disgrace and a degradation to both white and black races. It demanded a separate Government. It is true that they had a Constitutional right to take a slave like a horse into the territories, but Alexander Stevens, in pleading against secession, said: "Show me a single instance where the Federal Government has encroached upon the legal rights of the South." Again he said to the Georgia Legislature: "If you secede for the Constitutional election of Mr. Lincoln, you will be wrong, and posterity will execrate you." WILLIAM HEMSTREET

(Formerly Captain and Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, Eighteenth Missouri Infantry).

Brooklyn, July [illegible], 1915.

THE RACE QUESTION.

To the Editor of The Dispatch.

Sir: Barring the "Birth of a Nation" from Ohio seems to me a very foolish and futile move. Showing it would not hasten the break between the races, but barring it will give the race question more publicity in a few weeks than the pictures themselves could in a year's run.

The public views the pictures and think of them as the works of genius and marvel at the scenes as they are made to appear on the screen. In other words, they take them with a grain of salt. But when the newspapers get to discussing any subject and the people get to talking about it on the street, and in their stores, offices, factories and homes, there is one thing that is bound to happen. Everybody is going to form some opinion on the subject, and all future thoughts along these lines will, though perhaps unconsciously, be colored by that opinion.

When members of the two races get to thinking about themselves, they are sure to arrive on opposite sides of the fence. Never mind what the uplifters tell you, if you go deep enough you will find the fence between them. Strip off the gloves of grape-juice sentiment and you bare the fists of a white man. A white man is a white man, and a negro is a negro, they are as nature made them and they will remain so because nature is a supreme force. Each race has a right to exist but there can never be two dominant races occupying the same country at the same time.

True it is that there are a great many brilliant and gifted men among the negroes, men able to absorb education in all of its higher branches and who are successful in business and it is likewise true that a majority of them carry white blood in their veins. But the races will never amalgamate, will never intermingle socially. There is a line drawn between the races that nothing will ever erase. Education will not erase it. White women marrying black men and producing half white children will not go any farther in that direction, because, away down deep in his heart the white man knows that, instead of pulling her children partly across the line, she herself has stepped over onto the other side.

It is no doubt true that through the North there are some people who live among the white race and who are classed as white, who would show a strain of negro blood if their ancestry were traced back far enough, but the point is, nobody knows it and in most cases are not aware of it themselves.

Accuse one of them of having black blood and see what a row you will have raised which only goes to prove what I said about the line being permanent. And if it were possible to breed out the black and in a few hundred years have them all so they would be accepted as of the dominant race, it would only prove out that I said about two dominant races. But breeding out the black strain seems not to be what the leaders of the negroes want.

The true negro says he does not ask for anything but an equal opportunity and he is not getting an equal opportunity so long as there exists against him one little speck of race antagonism. That all they want in a chance to improve themselves and they are confident that their race is equal to ours if this race question can be kept down until they have a chance to prove it. But can

Fourth "Birth Of Nation" Bill Is Presented

Would Give Censorship to Chief of State Police Instead of Boston Authorities

A bill granting to the chief of the district police the power of censorship of moving pictures and theatrical performances now vested by statute in the Mayor of Boston and the Police Commissioner, was submitted to the joint legislative committee on judiciary by J. Mott Hallowell.

This is the fourth bill aimed at the "Birth of a Nation" motion picture film now before the committee. This bill goes farther than most of the other bills in granting additional reasons for suspension of a license by the chief of police. It provides that when a performance is "obscene or immoral, whether sexually or otherwise immoral, or tends to injure the morals of a community, or tends to encourage, incite or cause lawlessness or a breach of the peace, and is not eliminated at his request, he may suspend the license."

An appeal to the Supreme Court is allowed the theatrical manager or licensee. Commenting on the bill, Hallowell said:—

"The bill is permissive and not mandatory. It would not be exercised therefore unless a legitimate cause existed. It omits all racial and religious matters.

"Theatrical exhibitions and photo-plays are not like the free press or free speech. No such exhibitions have been allowed in this Commonwealth without first obtaining a license. The State confers the right and the State has the same authority on proper occasion to revoke or suspend the right.

"Such exhibitions in Boston are patronized by all the cities and towns around Boston. The power of revocation or suspension should be exercised by an authority having wider jurisdiction than a municipal officer of Boston. The chief of the district police is suggested because that officer already has supervision of Sunday exhibitions; although any officer with equally wide jurisdiction will be acceptable to the petitioners."

GREENVILLE IN RIGHTEOUS PROTEST

Citizens Make Demand Upon Officials to Prevent Disgrace of Moving Picture Play.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Greenville, Miss., Oct. 29.—The citizens of this city are making vigorous protest against the production of the photo play, "The Birth of a Nation," in our local theater. The following protest, signed by the leading citizens, was handed to the mayor and city officials, manager Greenville opera house and the local dailies:

The Letter of Protest.

City of Greenville, County of Washington, State of Mississippi.—To the Directors and Manager of the Greenville Opera House, the Mayor and City Officials:

We, the undersigned citizens of Greenville, hereby petition for your consideration. We notice from the screen at the Grand the advertising of the soon coming of "The Birth of a Nation." This picture has been fought by both white and colored true Americans and in some of the leading cities has been declared a nuisance by the mayors and other city officials. We can produce letters and articles by the bundle, written by white people, asking that the picture be discontinued. We realize the peacefulness and harmony at present existing between the white and black people of this vicinity, and have no other desire but to remain in the peaceful road. We call the manager's attention to the fact that more than 1,800 of people visit his playhouse each week. They are due some consideration. We consider it would be unjust to advise our people in any way until we should have properly requested of the officials to consider the feelings of 5,000 people who reside within the city. We have tried to do our part in helping as law-abiding citizens; we have fought the mail order houses from our pulpits, social and civil clubs, and now at your hands we ask some consideration in regard to this picture. (Signed) Jno. K. McMiller, T. J. Jackson, Chas. A. Howard, Rev. C. S. Dupree, Randolph Daniel, N. S. Taylor, Atty.; W. S. Steward, Geo. H. Washington, J. W. Briggs, L. W. Johnson, A. Bombs, T. Z. Allen, J. D. Nicholson, Pat Lather, Sam Percy, Mose Meek, Dr. E. P. Brown, S. P. Fulgum, John A. Harris, W. D. Craig, Will E. Hunt.

New York Tribune

31 March 1915

MAYOR BARS BRUTE AS NEGRO ON FILM

Censures Photoplay of the "Clansman" After Big Protest Meeting.

Mayor Mitchel yesterday gave a hearing to 500 negroes and their friends who objected to certain features in the play version of Thomas Dixon's "Clansman," now being presented at the Liberty Theatre. The fact that the management had voluntarily deleted the scenes objected to was not permitted to prevent the negroes and their friends expressing their opinion of the scenes and of the author.

The scenes objected to were two—one portraying the flight of a white girl from a negro, whom she escapes by throwing herself over a cliff, and another where a negro lieutenant governor attempts to attack the daughter of his benefactor.

One way or another the press agents of the company producing the film have made much of these scenes and discussion as to their fitness or lack of it has not been discouraged, even in Atlanta, where some of the pictures were taken. The objection to them was that they portrayed the negro as a brute and were calculated to engender race prejudice.

Frederic C. Howe, the first speaker, objected to the play as a whole as crude, vindictive and untrue, with one-half of the play devoted to war and the other half to picturing the negro as depraved. The production, he said, was an outrage upon 10,000,000 Americans who could make no protest because they have no voice in the affairs of the nation.

The Rev. Dr. William H. Bowles objected to the play as untrue. "If," said he, "the scenes were true, I'd hate my own race."

Rabbi Wise denounced the board of censors for allowing such a film to be produced, and the producers as "contemptible cowards." He congratulated the negroes of New York upon having been more patient than the Irish, "who attacked 'The Playboy of the Western World.'" If he did not know Thomas Dixon to be capable of such infamy he said he would have been forced to believe he was hired to write the book to stir up race prejudice.

"Improper, immoral and unjust," was the way Oswald G. Villard described the production. Miss Lillian D. Wald, of the Henry Street Settlement, indorsed what Mr. Villard said.

Fred R. Moore, editor of "The New York Age," appealed to the Mayor for fair play to his race.

Mayor Mitchel made all hands happy by announcing that the objectionable scenes would be presented no more in this city.

Boston Journal

26 April 1915

PATTERSON RAPS BOOKS ON NEGRO

"Uncle Tom" and "Clansman" Equally Misleading, Southerner Says.

Ex-Gov. Malcolm R. Patterson of Tennessee attacked the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," at yesterday's big prohibition rally, held in the First Universalist Church, Everett. He also criticized "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and "The Clansman," and said all three are doing a great injustice to the negro race.

The ministers of all the Protestant churches of Everett co-operated in the rally, which was presided over by Mayor James Chambers of Everett. Gov. Patterson was introduced by former Attorney General Thomas J. Boynton. He said no man who believed in the religion of Jesus Christ could possibly believe in the liquor traffic.

In regard to the photo-play, the former governor said he grieved for the negroes of Boston, who were being done "a rank injustice" when the "Birth of a Nation" was nightly shown to thousands of people.

"There were hundreds of good masters in the South in the days of slvaery, he said, "to one of the kind that was pictured in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the book does a great deal of harm. Another book that is a mistatement of fact is "The Clansman" and also the photo-play taken from it, "The Birth of a Nation" Although I am a Southerner, I believe the play ought to be stopped. No race in the history of the world has been so maligned as the negro. There are a hundred good negroes to one bad one"

Why an Exception?

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—

As discussion along these lines has been renewed, I would like to seek an explanation in your columns as to why one special race is to be spared all allusion to its crime. I have spoken to the manager of a theatre about the "Birth of a Nation" and the exception taken by the colored race to presentation of crime committed by one of their people. He failed to see the question in any other light than I do myself.

No stress in all the clamor raised has been laid on the vileness of the crime; the pivotal objection has been all along made to the implication of the colored race.

The German, whom no one accuses of lack of development in his philosophy, has never spilled one drop of ink in attempting to put "Faust" off the stage. He simply saw a deep historic fact so treated by genius that progress and purer life were to be attained by immortalizing the fabric in which it was woven.

The Frenchman, the Italian have seen themselves depicted in pieces the most sinister on the public stage for generations. Neither has tried to prove racial injustice—nor has either seen in the portrayal of crime any aspersion on the coexistent purity of manners in the nation under consideration. Indeed, as a fact, when it has come to great writers throughout history, human nature, its conflicting passions, its grand motives, which are universal and of all ages, has guided the pen. The incident of race has merely had to fit the play with artistic or historic truthfulness.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

THE BIRTH OF A NATION.

THE Telegram is in receipt of an anonymous letter very vigorously attacking the film spectacle, "The Birth of a Nation," as "an absolute unqualified historical lie." With the criticism we are partially in sympathy. But regardless of that, the film is a magnificent spectacle—quite the most pretentious and thrilling that has yet appeared in the "movies." It should be regarded, however, mainly as a work of fiction. It is worth anyone's time to see it, for its gripping spectacular features, but it should not be considered as a true portrayal of conditions in the South after the Civil War, for it is not.

All that portion of the film which leads up to, and through the Civil War, including the scenes attendant upon the surrender of Lee to Grant, and the assassination of President Lincoln, are given with great accuracy, from a careful study of the best historical sources. But from that point on, the film is fiction.

The writer of the anonymous letter evidently refers only to the "Reconstruction" scenes as portrayed by the film, for he goes on point by point to attack the accuracy of this portrayal. It is unnecessary, for the scenes are obviously distorted and colored from an intensely Southern viewpoint. The fact that such a portrayal can be received in the North at this time without the slightest hostile feeling is simple proof of the fact that so far as the North is concerned, all bitterness has vanished.

There is just enough of truth in the "Reconstruction" portion of the film to make the half truths and distortions more obvious, and there is enough drama and excitement to make the whole portion entirely acceptable as a thrilling spectacle even to those who know that this portion of the film, historically considered, is rot.

It is true, for instance, that there was a Negro legislature in South Carolina during the Reconstruction days. But it is not true, as the film conveys, that the whites were debarred from voting. These men who had taken up arms against the United States of America and had swamped the country in a bloody deluge, were treated after the war with a consideration that would have been accorded them in no other nation on the civilized globe. Instead of barring them arbitrarily from the ballot as rebels and traitors, the government offered to restore them the franchise upon the simple act of their taking the oath of allegiance to the flag and the nation against which they had fought so bitterly. Could anything more reasonable be required, or any punishment more lenient be devised? But thousands refused to take this oath, and remained traitors in fact. To shed the lugubrious tear for them to-day because they persisted in this course with stiff-necked pride is really too ridiculous. In a European nation those who refused to take the oath of allegiance under such circumstances would be hanged or shot, or exiled.

Those scenes in which Negro troops, enrolled members of the United States army, are portrayed as raiding and burning Southern towns are degrading lies. There were Negro [illegible] in the Northern army, but they fought bravely and honorably. The same cannot be said, however, of the Southern raiders, who for three years made life a terror for all the Northern states bordering the war zone. On this subject the film is silent.

The north undoubtedly made a grave mistake in giving the ballot by wholesale to Negro freedmen, who, however unfortunate might have been the past, were not qualified for the franchise merely on grounds of sympathy. Brought up in slavery and ignorance, they were not prepared to assume such a grave responsibility. The simple act of declaring them to be free did not prepare them to be voters, as events demonstrated. The mistake was a bad one, but the injustice of it was not so nearly one-sided as the fiery Southron who wrote "The Birth of a Nation" would have us believe.

As for the Ku Klux Klan, it was simply in fact an organization of lynchers. Doubtless some of its members were imbued with a burning sense of the wrongs of the South. But as in all such violent anarchistic organizations, the worst element quickly gets the upper hand. The Ku Klux Klan degenerated into an organization bent upon wreaking the personal spite of embittered men. Instead of avenging such wrongs as the film spectacle indicates, the organization was directed ten times more often against persons, both white and black, who were suspected of no greater crime than sympathy with the cause of the North. To display the Stars and Stripes was to invite the midnight lynchers in their grotesque robes. The Klansmen never fought in the open, but only in the dark. They were merely midnight assassins. Here again, the Northern government displayed a magnanimity which would have been shown in no other nation on earth, for instead of crushing this secret Klan and its kindred organization, the White League, such repressive measures as the Northern government took were half-hearted and ineffective.

which he obviously thinks undesirable. As a faithful statement of historical truths it deserves a place alongside Weems's "Life of Washington."

A prime objection to the whole thing is its caricature of the Union army and Union soldiers; and particularly its absolutely unfounded series of pictures intended to leave upon the mind the conviction that in Reconstruction times negro soldiers freely plundered and abused the white people of the South, and were encouraged so to do by their white officers.

No such thing ever occurred in the whole history of Reconstruction. The wearers of the blue were not all saints, but most of them were white, and they were all subject to court-martial. It is an insult to President Johnson, to the Secretary of War, to every commanding general, and to every officer and soldier in the army in the South, to lead people to believe that the U. S. A. was the remorseless tool of negro adventurers directed by Northern haters of the Southern people.

SOUTH MADE MISTAKES, TOO.

Mr. Dixon is here and elsewhere the mouthpiece of the theory that in Reconstruction it was the deliberate purpose of Charles Sumner, Henry Wilson, H. B. Anthony, E. D. Morgan, Simon Cameron, George F. Edmunds, and scores of others to turn the Southern whites over to negro domination and vengeance as a punishment for secession. True enough, Thaddeus Stevens did hate the slaveholders and was anxious to turn them out of political life. Perhaps for this offence, apparently, Stoneman (who is Thaddeus Stevens's prototype in the show), is endowed with a mulatto housekeeper of a particularly odious and suggestive kind. Whatever the mistakes of Reconstruction on the Northern side—and there were many—there were also some on the Southern side; and the North has a right to assert that it was never the wish of the Northern Republican voters to destroy Southern civilization or to pollute Southern homes.

Both sides came out of the war terribly excited; each side believed that the other side had been devilish through Reconstruction. The smoke is at last cleared away. Northerners can now clearly see the difficulties of the situation for their Southern brethren, and can regret that harsh measures were used; they know that the frenzied scenes of this play are fanciful. Must Southern writers continue to deny human kindness or righteousness to their Northern brethren of the same period? Are Northern people to visit and support a spectacle of which one of the main purposes is to throw all the responsibility and error of that distressed period upon them?

How many people would turn out in Atlanta or Memphis to support a set of moving pictures which was designed to show that the Ku Klux Klan was, from start to finish, an infamous attempt to whip, torture, and murder innocent people, white and black, and thereby to restore the negroes to practical slavery? The Ku Klux Klan were by no means angels, but they made a needed protest that was heard in Washington.

AN APPALLING FEATURE.

An appalling thing, about the so-called "Birth of a Nation" is its presentation of the rape of a white child by a negro. The word and the thought are repugnant to every right-minded per-

SAYS FILM PLAY IS INSULT TO OUR ARMY

HARVARD PROFESSSOR ARRAIGNS "BIRTH OF A NATION."

Albert Bushnell Hart, Professor of American History, Takes Exception to Incidents in Film and Says that Dixon Aims to Spread Race Hatred—Title Is Merely a Catchword, and All Responsibility Is Placed on the Northerners.

Albert Bushnell Hart, professor of American history in Harvard University, arraigns the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," as an insult to the United States army, President Johnson and his Administration, and the American people, in a recent letter to the Boston *Journal*. His letter is in answer to a previous letter to the same paper from Thomas Dixon, author of the "Clansman," the book upon which the film play is based.

Professor Hart points out further that neither book nor play is historically correct, and that the title, "The Birth of a Nation," is merely a catchword, and has no foundation in the historical significance of the time of which it treats. He asks if Northerners are to be expected to "support a spectacle of which one of the main purposes is to throw all the responsibility and error of that distressed period upon them," and says that the film tends to brutalize the community and inspire poisonous distrust of a large element in it.

Professor Hart's letter follows almost in its entirety:

Is it a moral duty for every respectable person in Massachusetts to pay his dollar for an indifferent seat in order to view the "moving spectacle by flood and field" humorously entitled "The Birth of a Nation?"

If you believe the advertisements, you must go. If you believe the tearful, injured letter to the *Journal* by Thomas Dixon, the author, you are neglecting your soul's welfare if you stay away. To be sure, this show does not describe the birth of a nation; it does not give a true impression either of the antebellum period, the Civil War, or Reconstruction; it contains unforgivable slanders upon some Northern statesmen and upon the United States army; it is based upon the most hideous of crimes; and is calculated to arouse passionate and destroying race hatred wherever it is produced.

Otherwise, it includes many pictures of pretty girls and handsome youths and stately mansion, besides thick layers of cannon smoke and human gore. American audiences have become accustomed to "movie" highway robberies, beatings, stabbings, whippings, and shootings, and little children take pleasure in such diversions. But in the capacity to saturate the ordinary mind with the foulest and basest of crimes, and to fix the stigma of hatred upon innocent persons, the "Birth of a Nation" is in a class by itself.

TITLE MERELY A CATCHWORD.

The title is, of course, merely a catchword, unless by birth of a nation the author means the rending a nation in twain, and its reconstitution in a way

son, but the thought if not the word, is the incident toward which the whole show leads up; and it cannot be discussed without calling a spade a spade.

In his previous books, "The Leopard's Spots" and "The Clansman," the author has used the same machinery and has dwelt upon the same incident. In recent performances in Boston the operator, for reasons not revealed to the audience, features the printed description of two reels, but cuts them out. Doubtless the omitted pictures are skilfully drawn so as to suggest the crime and to leave the rest to the imagination. But why must it be suggested?

Dixon defends it in his letter to the *Journal*, because he says the incident has occurred. Doubtless; yet it is one of the rarest of all crimes, and least needs to be kept in the public mind. During the last fifty years the rape of white women by negroes has occurred ten to thirty times a year. That is, the chance that any particular Southern negro will commit the crime is not more than one in 10,000; and the chance that a particular Southern woman in her lifetime may be a victim is less than one in 20,000. This number of crimes would be much reduced but for the habit of lynching nearly every such criminal, and thus spreading abroad the details to the winds.

In not a single Northern community can the dwelling upon such a horrid crime in public exhibitions be necessary to arouse public opinion; for that particular crime has hardly been known in the North in half a century. Therefore, such pictures simply help to brutalize every community in which they are exhibited. Perhaps some of the people who read this letter are shocked by the frankness of its language, but it is not one-tenth as frank or as permanent as the pictures which are spread before men, matron, tender maiden, and artless child.

AIMS TO AROUSE RACE HATRED.

What is the object of the show? Why should a man like Dixon, against whose private character there are no charges, spend a lifetime in sowing fire brands throughout his country? It is impossible to be sure of the motives, but the effects are perfectly clear whether they were so intended or otherwise. The "Birth of a Nation," like the novels, "The Clansman," upon which it is founded, and "The Leopard's Spots," inculcates a gospel of hate towards the colored race.

Most of the negroes presented in these moving pictures are brutal in face, figure, and behavior. Men of the same type as Col. Shaw's soldier, pictured in that magnificent monument opposite the State House, are presented to you as unworthy of their uniforms! Not once, but twice, in the spectacle a brutal negro attempts to possess himself of a sweet and beautiful white girl.

Nobody who supposes these pictures to be a fair representation of things that actually happened can go away without carrying a poisonous distrust towards the negro—towards the negroes in his own neighborhood, towards the negroes all over the land, towards communities of negroes, who reprehend these dreadful crimes as much as any white man.

The country has already seen the effects of familiarizing growing boys and girls with road agents and escaped convicts and hold-up men and stage detectives. Yet, after all, you can see a man killed in a moving-picture fight without much emotion; there is no soot or smirch in it; you do not lay the crime to a single race. Rape, with all its horrors, is perfectly well known to white communities, and in numerous cases white men are the criminals. Yet nobody tries to fix upon a particular white race or community the responsibility for the crime. Nobody except the authors of such shows and such books (whether they mean it or mean something else) has such success in inducing thousands of their fellow-citizens to look with hate and apprehension upon a large class of their neighbors.

In some similar pictures, perhaps in the omitted reels, you get the smoke of the lynching and the charred stake, surrounded with its awful evidence that a crime has been committed by lynchers as well as by the negro.

STATE LAW IS DEFECTIVE.

Mr. Dixon is certain that the courts of Massachusetts "have sustained the play squarely on its merits." The courts have done nothing more than to show that the law of Massachusetts is defective. It ought to be the law that no play, spoken, acted, or pictured, should be admitted to any stage if it tends to incite public hatred against an innocent section of the community in which it is played. Mr. Dixon thinks that such a principle would have suppressed "Uncle Tom's Cabin." It would have suppressed, and did suppress it, in the Southern States where the slaves might possibly have been aroused against their masters. It did not suppress it in the North, where they were no slaves or slave-holding class to be aroused.

The influence of such an appeal to race passion is wide. Boston is not likely to be aroused to a lynching by any means as this, but the "Birth of a Nation" showed in Coatesville, Pa., or Springfield, Ill., might again literally kindle the fires of race hatred which have so disgraced these places. In Indianapolis, or even on the West Side of New York, it might easily bring about a terrible race riot, because both the negroes and those who hate them are numerous in those cities.

DIXON'S HISTORY WEAK.

Mr. Dixon's letter to the *Journal* contains a number of statements which might be put upon an examination in American history, for the pupils to point out the misstatements. As a maker of a book for moving pictures, Mr. Dixon is highly successful; if he would only leave the lust and the passion out, his show would be worth seeing. As a historian, he hardly invites dissent. Nobody will believe, surely, because he says so, that Thaddeus Stevens threatened to hang Andrew Johnson from the balcony of the White House; or that he set up Ben Wade to be dictator—how Ben Wade would have sworn at the idea that Thaddeus Stevens could create him! Probably nobody in the world except Dixon believes that all the laws made by the Reconstruction legislators of the South were drafted by the Freedmen's Bureau.

Nevertheless, it seems proven by the attendance on this play that Dixon was right in thinking that Massachusetts people would take pleasure in seeing their soldiers represented as robbing and murdering the Southern whites, and that it would give us pleasure to see our negro neighbors, who have been a law-abidnig people, bracketed with savage fiends.

That is the real trouble with the play. It is not, as Dixon claims, the "faithful record of the life of fifty years ago." It includes many sweet and lovely episodes, a selection of some of the most unusual and dreadful things in the history of mankind, and other incidents which never occurred on the globe. It has been a great financial success, because thousands of people would rather be thrilled than instructed, and to that end are willing to have their own heroes and friends portrayed as hideous monsters.

COLORED MINISTERS PASS STATEMENT

The Savannah Tribune 2/5/16.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 18, 1916

Resolutions passed in Colored Ministers' Union and in mass meeting at St. Philip Church asking council to prevent the coming of "The Birth of a Nation."

"The Birth of a Nation" should be prohibited for many reasons: First, the play shows a colored man pursuing a white girl for vile purposes, and she dashes to death to prevent a horrible crime, a scene within itself calculated to cause every white man to hate every young Negro man, and to suspected with much dread the young Negro in his daily employment. If the scene is true to life in actual occurrence it is by no means typical of a race, but it represents only that rare exception as a criminal who happens to have been black. In the number of lynchings for crime and supposed crime for the past year, it is shown that less than ten per cent is caused by even the accusation of such crime, as shown in this scene which aims at the climax in the play.

These are the statistics which are well known and established by those who have made a careful study of the record for lynching. We urge that the progressive white man will not allow the racial element to be commercialized to the point of creating race hate between a growing generation of white boys and black boys. It is to be remembered that the most frequent visitors of the theatres are the young of both races, and at an age when they are most susceptible to bad suggestions. As an illustration to point out the degradation we refer our friends to the privation of hangings as our state records.

There was a time when men were hanged publicly but the moral sentiment has grown to the point that men no longer think it helps society to gaze upon the hanging of one who represents a small element of humanity, in committing a hanging crime. This the hangings are made private for the good of society and not to condone the criminal. In this the law is enforced with as much zeal and with more effective decision. If any man as a criminal commits this horrible crime the Negro feels, that as a criminal, he should be severely punished, and not have the entire race suffer the stigma as established as a race trait thru scenic production or otherwise.

Further, upon this point, we find that the wisdom of the southern and northern cities almost unanimously agreed upon the prompt suppression of the Jack Johnson and Jeffries fight for the good of society. The same was true of Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Second: the reconstruction scene pictures the Negro as stupid and incapable of progress, while making him responsible for the abnormal condition economically, politically and otherwise following the war. This scene does by no means represent the truth of affairs. The conditions in all countries are abnormal following the wars and unheavals. The wonder is how well the southern white man and Negro got along as ex-master and ex-slave, opposite in racial type, almost equal in numbers and freed largely as a war measure so far as the heart of the nation is concerned. Then can our white people, proud and cultured in feeling, patriotic in ideals, give their consent to allow a vulgar play to be presented in Savannah, or the south, as being the truth in making a defenseless people responsible for the absormal conditions in the south, which existed in the early sixties, coming as a result of almost one hundred years contention between two strong sections of the country, which contention viewed economically was the tariff while the Negro question only comes in an occasion for strife?.

It must be remembered that the motive of the play writer, is to be seriously considered. Especially when it is known that Mr. Dixon is indeed hostile and by no means in sympathy with the ten million colored people in this country. This being true, his play in scenic production and general character must necessarily reflect this feeling of his, and are thereby capable of importing not only uncalled for racial antipathy and hate but destruction to the ideals of the whites while literally destroying the blacks. The recent scenes in Early county and Montecello, Ga., are only signs of worse things to be, when young minds are fed on such suggestive pictures.

We ask therefore, that the council prevent its being shown.

J. A. MARTIN.
President Ministers' Union
Wm. DANIELS, Sec'y

RUN PHOTO PLY UNDER A MISLEADING TITLE

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

SPRINGFIELD, OHIO, June 15.—Masquerading under another title, the photoplay, "The Nigger," was brought to this city by the management of the Majestic Theatre Co., on May 12. The name chosen as a disguise was "The Mystery of Morrow's Rest." Only the fact that the company in its advertising matter stated that it was the same play being shown in other states as "The Nigger" put the colored people wise to its nature.

Two performances were given before a committee of colored people, Dr. R. E. Petiford, Dr. S. S. Jordan, Mrs. John R. Rudd and W. Forest Speaks, could get into action. The City Manager was appealed to and he investigated immediately. The film was found to contain all the objectionable features and the City Manager informed the State Board of Censors at Columbus. Two members of the board came to the city at once and witnessed the play. After they had held a conference with the City Manager an officer was sent to the theatre and the play stopped. It was learned that the play, in the form being presented, had never been shown before the board.

The theatre management announced that the play would be shown again on May 24, but the Board of Censors notified them that if this was done without its approval arrest of the theatre folks would follow. The board then ordered the elimination of certain scenes, and a memorandum of the objectionable features submitted to the committee. In its revised form the play was given on May 24.

COLORED PEOPLE PROTEST AGAINST MOTION PICTURE

Twelve colored people of Oakland, including two colored clergymen, appealed to the Supreme Court yesterday from the ruling of the Appellate Court in the matter wherein they sought to obtain an injunction from the Superior Court of Alameda county to restrain the performance of "The Clansman," a moving-picture drama, at an Oakland theater last May. The lower court refused to grant the injunction and the Appellate Court upheld the decision.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

ATLANTIC CITY STOPS "BIRTH OF A NATION" BUT STATE CHANCELLOR OVERRULES ACT

Colored Protestants Aided by Mayor and City Rulers, and Safety Director Orders Play Stopped—Theatre Gets Chancellor to Restrain Order—Colored Leaders Agree to Cutting Both Gus and Lynch Scenes When All Other Hope Gone—Strong Fight Should Not Weaken—Providence N.A.A.C.P. Make Statement—Frank Case Used.

Guardian 8-28-15

VICTORY AND LOSS ON "BIRTH OF A NATION" AT ATLANTIC CITY.

(Special to the Guardian)

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 18, 1915—A great fight has at last been made here in the "Birth of a Nation." It was started by the newspaper protest of the Equal Rights Leogue. Then the Literary of the Presbyterian church, Rev. E. M. Clark, pastor, with newspaper protests by Rev. Langford of the Price Memorial Jim church and others. The Guardian had strengthened the hands of the protesters here. Finally a hearing was secured before the city government and by the Mayor's initiative the city fathers ordered the Director of Public Safety to notify the theatre to stop the play.

He did so, but the theatre went to the state chamber and got an injunction against the Director's order. Then several clergymen were consulted by the theatre manager for a compromise, and they agreed to censoring two scenes—Gus and Lynch. This compromise is rather weak, as these scenes will only be "deleted." But a great fight has been made..

Hearing Before the City Government.

On Thursday, Aug. 12, 1915, the Colored people of Atlantic City, N. J., made a strenuous protest before the Mayor and Commissioners. The Chamber was crowded to the utmost capacity. The cause of the Negro race was ably championed by Dr. Terry and Rev. Dr. Langford. They stated the case of the Colored race against "The Birth of a Nation" in a clear, logical and pointed manner.

Dr. Terry and Rev. Langford.

Dr. Terry, the first speaker, spoke with much power, eloquence and force. He contended that it was a shame and disgrace to stir up race hatred and mob violence. He pointed out to the City Officials in an argument that was more than convincing that the picture casts a very disgraceful reflection upon his race, for which there could be no justification or excuse, except that it was to hold the Negro up to shame and ridicule. He also contended that it was a shame and disgrace upon American civilization to exhibit a picture so highly designed to stir up mob violence and race hatred.

Rev. Dr. Langford, the church militant and able defender of the Negro race, stirred the Commissioners and the entire audience with his logical and powerful argument. So earnest and impassionate was his plea, so forecful and powerful his argument, so pertinent and impressive his citation of history, so fair and Christ-like his conception of justice and human rights, so diginfied, cultured and lofty his bearing, that the audience thought that the noble spirit and the great mantle of the illustrious Frederick Douglas had fallen on Dr. Langford. The audience murmured that the occasion must have aroused Dr. Langford, for many said that they had heard him make great speeches before, but they had never heard him in a speech in which his whole soul and personality seemed to have been more completely lost for the cause for which he was pleading.

Mayor Riddle Makes Motion.

Mayor Riddle being so affected by the speech said that "any man who approved of 'The Birth of a Nation' approved of mob violence and murder." The Mayor also said that he had not only talked with the white men of the North but with the white men of the South about the play and that they were of the opinion that "The Birth of a Nation" was the most disgraceful and shameful play that was ever presented. He introduced a resolution reading: Because the picture causes hatred between the races, and because of its evil, having been forbidden in many other cities, the Director of Public Safety is hereby requested to cause the discontinuance of this picture, "The Birth of a Nation."

Report of Victory an Atlantic City Review.

On the heels of the protest of a large delegation of the Colored race in this city to the City Commission against "The Birth of a Nation" on Thursday and indications that disorder might be precipitated if the pho-

to play were continued longer at the New Nixon, Director of Public Safety Bartlett last night notified the management of the New Nixon theatre to withdraw the production after Monday next.

It has been running here for four or five weeks and has created strong feelings of resentment among the Colored population in this city.

The feeling came to a head on Thursday afternoon, when about 200 Colored men and women appeared before the City Commission and told the "rulers" the play was an insult and a false travesty of their race and was certain to provoke race hostility. They urged the Commissioners to prohibit the further production of the much talked of moving picture drama of past times. Mayor Riddle thereupon moved a resolution requesting

ANOTHER DIXON LIE EXPLODED.

THOMAS DIXON, of Clansman fame, has so often been convicted of being a liar, a distorter of history, and a marplot, willing to coin race prejudice into money, that he will not be at all nonplussed when he reads the letter which follows which recently appeared in *The New York Sun*:

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir:
To the Editor of The Sun.

Sir:—Several weeks ago there appeared in your "Questions and Answers" column an extract from a letter from the Rev. THOMAS DIXON reflecting severely upon the character of THADDEUS STEVENS. May I draw attention to the most glaring of his misstatements?

THADDEUS STEVENS was a bachelor who preferred to live in his own home rather than at a hotel. His housekeeper was a colored woman named LYDIA SMITH, not BROWN, a small error, but characteristic of the inaccuracy of the entire letter. On this slender basis of fact Mr. DIXON makes the charge that Stevens lived for fifteen years in open adultery with his housekeeper. Whether the inference was drawn by the author from the customs of his own country or the bent of his own mind, it is wholly without foundation in truth.

STEVENS is not buried in a Negro cemetery. He is buried in Shreiner's Cemetery, at the corner of West Chestnut and North Mulberry streets, Lancaster, Pa. He chose it as his last resting place because it was the only cemetery in the city of Lancaster which in its charter did not discriminate against the colored race. As a matter of fact, so far as I have been able to learn, and I have lived here twenty-two years, and have made careful inquiry, no Negroes are or ever have been buried in this cemetery.

LYDIA SMITH, STEVENS's housekeeper, is not buried at his side or even in the same cemetery. For a number of years before his death STEVENS was an invalid; his housekeeper was a loyal and faithful servant, and in his will STEVENS remembered her with a moderate legacy, not incommensurate with her services. The bulk of his estate went to endow an industrial school for boys in this city, which the State of Pennsylvania has recently taken over as a State institution, and in which the benevolent plans of the "Great Commoner" are being carried into effect.

During his lifetime STEVENS was always more than a match for his enemies and detractors. Were he alive Mr. DIXON would not have dared to bark at him, much less attack him. THADDEUS STEVEN'S whole life was dedicated to the cause of human liberty, and I protest against the attempt to write these slanders into his life and history.

WILLIAM H. KELLER.
Lancaster, Pa., September 22.

DIXON'S hatred of THADDEUS STEVENS grows out of the fact that he was strong enough to resist the machinations of marplots before him, who sought to undo all that the Civil War had accomplished. STEVENS is honored in having the enmity of a creature like DIXON.

May 1915

Denies "Birth of Nation" Was Aimed at Negro

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

The statement made by Rolfe Cobleigh that I told him that the purpose back of "The Birth of a Nation" was the extermination of the negro race, is the hallucination of an over-heated mind. The assertion is so foolishly absurd on its face that it would not require denial but for the widespread hysteria which at present affects our colored friends in Boston.

Early in March I received a letter from Mr. Cobleigh denouncing "The Birth of a Nation," which he had never seen. I suggested mildly that he suspend judgment until he had seen it or at least until I could forward the verdict of the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D.D., pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, who had been asked to see it and make a special report from a clergyman's point of view.

Mr. Cobleigh replied expressing his confidence in Dr. Parkhurst. A week later he wrote me again asking for the report from the distinguished clergyman reformer. I immediately mailed it and asked him to print it in full in the Congregationalist. This he failed to do. Dr. Parkhurst gave "The Birth of a Nation" his "unqualified approval" and specifically declared that the play was in no sense an attack on or a reflection on the negro race of today. On the other hand he squarely affirmed that the final impression of the drama was the highest compliment to the negro of today, because it showed so simply and plainly his progress from the conditions of 50 years ago when he had just emerged from slavery.

On my arrival in Boston on April 9 I called at Mr. Cobleigh's office to ask why, after demanding the report of Dr. Parkhurst, he had failed to print it. I met the gentleman for the first time in my life and had a very pleasant but unprofitable talk with him in his little sanctum.

I again laughingly suggested that he suspend his final judgment until he should see the play that night. He frankly informed me that his mind was already made up and that no event in heaven or earth could move him. I told him, of course, he could only see on the screen that which he had made up his mind to see. I laughed again and gave him two tickets, for which he thanked me.

The mental make-up of such men is a curious study. As a novelist I intend to use Mr. Cobleigh.

"The Birth of a Nation" is an absolutely true record of the turbulent life of the Civil War and Reconstruction. It was produced to stimulate, through three thrilling hours, the study of American history. I find it is certainly accomplishing that purpose.

To the man or woman who sees it with an open mind, it brings only inspiration and gratitude to God for the blessings we enjoy today as a free united nation.

The play is much broader than my book on which it is based. In fact, the film is so much broader that I insisted that Mr. Griffith change the title to "The Birth of a Nation," as "The Clansman" was too narrow and controversial to fit the new production.

Mr. Cobleigh is merely repeating preconceived ideas which he got long ago from an angry reading of one of my books. He certainly found no such idea in "The Birth of a Nation." The play speaks for itself. Its producers cannot be held responsible for what the critics of my book imagine must be in it. I never made the statement which came from Mr. Cobleigh. I never made any such statement to any human being. It is hysteria pure and simple.

THOMAS DIXON.

New York, May 6.

TOM DIXONS FOUL PLAY IS BARRED FROM "MOVIES"

The Chicago Defender 9-27-15

"The Birth of a Nation" a Revision of "The Clansman," is Forbidden in New York City By Decision of Board of Censors—Board Composed of Representative Citizens.

FREDK. C. HOWE CHAIRMAN.

Says Pictures Would Cause Race Riots in the South—Would Postpone Solu-

tion of the Race Problem—Decision is Final.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

New York, March 26.—"The Birth of the Nation," a "movie" revision of "The Clansman," was dealt a decisive blow by the Board of Censors here this week.

The Board is composed of one hundred members, from which ten are selected to view "movies" and report their findings to the entire body. Mr. Frederick C. Howe, chairman of the Board, sat with the committee when the film was shown.

After the pictures had been "reeled off," the committee, without hesitancy, voted to exclude it from exhibition in New York City.

Make-Up of Committee.

Among those of the committee who objected to the picture were Dr. J. P. Warbasse of Brooklyn; Mrs. Joseph M. Price, Mrs. Howard Gabs, J. K. Pauling and Dr. Lewis, head of the Prison Association of New York State.

In commenting upon the matter to the Defender's representative, Chairman Howe said:

"My objection was personal. It was because the story is bound to arouse race hatred, which I think unjustified, and have a bad effect. It is likely to lead to race troubles. I object to the scene of a brutal Negro chasing a white girl. That is not a sufficiently frequent occurrence to justify the author's claim that it is the greatest film ever produced.

Would Cause Race Riot.

"If the picture goes into the south I should think it would bring about race riots. Men might be killed as a result of it.

"It would have a bad effect on white people as well as upon black people. It is going to postpone the approach to a solution of the racial problem much longer.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

14 October 1915

"BIRTH OF A NATION" SUCCESS IN LONDON

British Critics Like Griffith Masterpiece—Notes of the Film World

By the Photoplay Editor

"The Birth of a Nation" seems to have done well in London, where it was only recently shown. The London Daily Telegraph has the following to say about the production:

"Altogether remarkable are the artistic beauty and the lifelike realism of the scenes in which this moving pictorial drama is unfolded. The pictures are quite wonderful in their way—superb in their lighting and in their suggestion of depth and atmosphere, fascinating in the naturalness with which they reproduce extensive landscapes, well-nigh gruesome in the nakedness with which they depict the elemental human passions at work. Probably the scenes that will appeal most strongly to the British public at the present time are those which reproduce the grim horrors of war—the shouts of hostile forces in trench fighting and in the open field, the bursting of shells, the red glare of burning countrysides and so forth. These pictures, in the lurid impression they convey of the realities of war, are the most striking in the entire production. Whether the scenes dealing with the slavery question will prove quite so interesting is another matter."

The Daily Graphic says: "'The Birth of a Nation' is an emphatic and conspicuous credit to cinematography in general and to Western art and production in particular. * * * The illusion is so complete, the sense of personal participation in terrible events so keen that it is as if one were seeing the actual thing and hearing a great artist tell of it and its effects both at the same time. * * * A spectacle worthy of its theme, dignified and likely to inspire to high purposes."

The Daily News says: "It is certainly the most wonderful cinema show of its kind that has ever been presented in London."

A BURNING SHAME.

On last Monday night several of our prominent and most respected citizens were assaulted by a mob of policemen, merely because they were silently protesting their displeasure at the continuance of a play at the Forrest Theatre in this city. More than a hundred policemen were called out and with clubs and "blackjacks" they made murderous assault upon inoffensive citizens, probably mutilating some of them for life. Rev. W. F. Graham, one of the most successful if not the most successful minister in this city, the pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church, was pounced upon by these ruffians and beaten about the head and shoulders, so that he had to be taken to the hospital. Brother Bell, one of the most efficient officers of Bethel Church, met a similar fate. Dr. W. A. Sinclair, a member of the Publication Board and a citizen of repute, was also brutally assaulted and beaten for no crime whatever. Mr. Sidney Purnell, for many year Secretary of the Publication Board, and several others were arrested. And the best proof that these persons were grossly ill-treated was that many of those whom the police assaulted they did not have moral courage to arrest; and those who were arrested (except one) were discharged by the magistrate without even asking for a defence. Indeed, some six policemen testified in one case and the only thing they could say was that they saw a colored man running and they had no other reason for arresting him. In the case of Mr. Purnell, the policeman said he saw that colored man standing in the middle of the street and arrested him, but he gave no reason. The magistrate justly rebuked the policemen for such unjust arrests.

We hope Dr. Graham and Mr. Bell will not only prosecute the brutal policemen for assault and battery, but will get suitable damages from this city, whose agents these irresponsible policemen are. In this city policemen have no right to club people without cause.

The Boston Advertiser

The "Birth of a Nation."

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—

One of the most surprising, and I might say, perplexing phases of the situation created by the production of "The Birth of a Nation" is the attitude and criticisms of a few well-known men of this community.

Mr. Moorfield Storey, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," criticises the picture because it is a "wicked libel on the negro race." He has never seen the picture. He relies upon the opinions of others for his conclusion. On the other hand, thousands of citizens have actually seen this picture, and entirely disagree with him in his conclusion.

We find Dr. Eliot of Harvard criticising the picture because: "It injured the whites more than the blacks," but at the end of his statement, in speaking about the continued presentation of the photo-play, he says, "I am not sure it will not have a very useful result—one worth having." Albert E. Pillsbury, who is one of the directors of the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association, "found it very different from what I had been led to expect." Perhaps Mr. Moorfield Storey and others who have criticised this picture might find it very different from what they had been led to expect if they went to see it. However, Mr. Pillsbury still criticises the picture as "a defamation of the Union cause and an apothesis of slavery and rebellion," but not as a vilification of the negro race.

Mr. Pillsbury finds also a deep, dark scheme to cause the repeal of the 14th and 15th Amendments to the Constitution of the United States. Of course he brings in the Ku Klux Klan and alleges that the picture glorifies the principles of the Ku Klux Klan, chiding the public for its applause. He will not see that the public is applauding merely the beautiful exemplification of fine riding, beautiful scenery, fine horses and virtue triumphant over vice.

Mr. Pillsbury's deductions seem absurd when we consider that a large number of Grand Army Veterans who actually participated in the Civil War have seen this picture, with approval, but it remains for Mr. Pillsbury, who did not participate in the Civil War, to pick out such ideas.

To recapitulate, various critics have said this picture was obscene and immoral—

ports of copper last month was the scarcity of shipping facilities, and that if vessels had been obtainable the shipments would have been much larger. The London copper metal market yesterday made a sharp recovery.

Nevada Consolidated's Quarter.

The statement of Nevada Consolidated for the quarter to March 31 shows net earnings $704,734, as compared with $801,441 for the corresponding quarter a year ago; balance after dividends $204,870, as compared with $51,644; and surplus after depreciation and ore extinguishment charges $48,074, as compared with a deficit of $177,040. The output of copper for the quarter was 10,815,680 lbs., as compared with 15,597,592. The net cost of the copper produced was 8.97 cents a pound, and the earnings were figured on a selling price of 16.65 cents. The ore treated averaged 1.49 p.c. in copper, as against 1.54 p.c. in the previous quarter.

Bethlehem Steel Advances

Bethlehem Steel advanced nine points, and closed five points higher, the buying being based on the report that the company had received additional orders for war materials, aggregating $83,000,000, upon which it will earn a profit of 20 p.c. It is claimed that the company this year will

Grand Rapids Mich. Herald

RACE PREJUDICE.

The movie film, "The Birth of a Nation," excited widespread discussion as to whether or not it engendered a race prejudice; and negroes were bitter in their denunciation of the unfairness toward their people which they insisted the film showed. If a mere "movie" was entitled to as much attention as all that, what shall be said of the following dispatch reprinted from last night's Evening Press:

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10.—President Wilson today refused to appoint a colored man recorder of deeds in the District of Columbia, a place long held by colored men. He so informed Bishop Alexander Walters, president of the Colored Democratic league. Southern Democrats in the senate had served notice that a colored man could not be confirmed.

The President probably has no alternative but to yield to orders from these "southern Democrats." They are in the saddle. They control. But it makes a miserable travesty out of the racial equality which "The Birth of a Nation" supposedly erected in free America. The President might have at least "framed an issue" with his southern over-lords and saved his own record.

The same paper which prints this dispatch, prints the story of a gathering of representative men and women of Grand Rapids to do honor to the memory of Booker T. Washington. It was one of the most striking tributes which the city has paid to the memory of any man in recent years. What would Booker Washington say, if he were living; what would he say of this racial embargo at the nation's capitol? And would it not be the greatest tangible tribute to his memory if those who would memoralize him were to send such a message to the capitol as he would wish to have sent if he were here to fight for his people?

Thinks "Birth of Nation" Has Sinister Purposes

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

Permit me to state that the controversy now going on relative to the "Birth of a Nation" has greatly interested me. The more so, because I am what might be termed "non-partizan," having been born in the quaint old city of New Orleans and having lived considerable of my life along the Gun States, as well as in the North.

I am quite familiar with the character commonly alluded to as the "poor white" or "piny-woods white," as well as the cultured white and the "darkie;" and from personal experience among all of them I am inclined to echo the statements recently made in Revere by the ex-governor of Tennessee, excepting, perhaps, that in my cold, unbiased opinion I would say that the ratio was 90 per cent. or a little better of good blacks to 10 per cent. of bad ones. And in my years of living in the South I never knew or heard of any serious trouble between the cultured whites and the blacks; in fact, I think it a safe assertion that the percentage of law-breaking whites in the North will exceed the ratio of law-breaking blacks in the South, taking the two populations per 1000 capita; but my main object for writing this is to suggest that it might be a good idea for the State authorities, both North and South, as well as the Federal peace protectors, to investigate closely for the "hidden hand" or "wolf in sheep clothing" that is putting forth this photoplay for sinister purposes at this particular time.

I notice that Albert Bushnell Hart in your issue of today, hints at the same idea, but this has been my strongest opinion from the beginning of the controversy, and I doubt not that some innocent people are being unwittingly used as "tools" therein or blinded by promises of large financial returns.

This nation at the present time is sorely beset with pretended friends both domestic and foreign—which are the worst possible types of enemies. Better seach for the hidden hand.

G. H. WILLIAMS

Brunswick, Me.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

Middleton NY
Argus

We entirely agree with Mr. Howe, Chairman of the National Board of Censorship, that the exhibition of the picture film entitled the "Birth of a Nation" is in shocking bad taste. It treats of incidents in our National life of fifty years ago that were far better left to slumber in oblivion. Their reproduction in a motion picture film can only tend to fan the slumbering embers of race antagonism into a flame of active hatred that would bode no good. The negro has suffered enough in the past at the hands of his white brother without having further insult heaped upon him through the agency of the movies. The film is misnamed. The Clansman, from the plot of which the scenario was staged, was never intended to represent the birth of a nation. Rather it was a picture of a dark chapter in the life of the nation—of deadly throes, the agony of convulsive efforts to reconstruct a people torn and rent by the frightful excesses of war. The horror of that period is unmistakable in retrospect and pitiable in the extreme. Perhaps no people could have done better under the circumstances. But to exploit the black race, to hold it up to obloquy and reproach as being responsible for the vice and crime that was rampant in the South during that period, is a monstrous wrong. This wrong is only paralleled by that done the black race when its members were torn from their native habitat and brought in hideous captivity in the foul 'tween decks of vile slave ships and sold to perpetual bondage. The negro at his worst was better than the white man who enslaved him and traded him for gold. A hundred years of slavery could not completely destroy his manhood. Toiling under the hot sun in the fields from morning to night without hope of reward, he was yet the mighty power that lifted the South out of the slough of poverty to opulence. To the everlasting shame of the white man of the South the mighty agent of all his prosperity had no share in it. Even after the great soul of Abraham Lincoln, looking into the future with the eye of the seer, and seeing there the only hope of renegeration for the South—not for the Negro alone but for the white man—lay in wiping out the curse of slavery and, with the courage born of this inspired conviction, took upon himself the task of striking the manacles from the slave. Even this was turned from a blessing into a curse by the hatred and greed of the whites. And after all these years of labor and abuse, after all the struggles for education, for enlightment, for the chance to hold up his head and show the world that a black skin can cover a white soul, to be at this late day held up to scorn and contumely is a dastardly outrage only capable of being perpetrated by the mean soul of a man who would sell his talent, his honor, everything he should hold most dear, for notoriety or money.

A CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT.

On last Monday there met in this city a group of about 30 men and women to organize an offset to "The Birth of a Nation." They represent the best there is in the city in character, brains and enterprise. The suggestion came from Secretary Hawkins and Prof. DuBois, to give an historical pageant showing the religious life of the Negro, during the General Conference of the A. M. E. Church next May, thus to make this great centennial not only of value to African Methodists but of interest and value to all Negroes and to the community as a whole. At the meeting there were two bishops, one A. M. E. and one A. M. E. Z., there were two general officers of the A. M. E. Church, five other Methodist ministers, seven Baptist ministers, one colored member of City Councils, two lawyers, one being a former Representative in the Pennsylvania Legislature, three physicians, two school teachers, three editors, two other business men and two ladies. The organization was as follows: President, Bishop L. J. Coppin; vice-president, Rev. A. R. Robinson, pastor of Union Baptist Church and president of the Baptist and Foreign Mission Board; secretary, R. R. Wright, Jr., editor of the Christian Recorder; assistant secretary, Hon. H. W. Bass, attorney-at-law; treasurer, Rev. W. F. Graham, pastor of Holy Trinity Baptist Church and treasurer of the National Baptist Foreign Mission Board; executive committee, the five officers and Rev. E. W. Moore, pastor of Zion Baptist Church, chairman; John R. Hawkins, financial secretary of the A. M. E. Church; Clarence R. Whyte, principal of the Reynolds School; Bishop J. S. Caldwell, of the A. M. E. Zion Church; Rev. J. M. Moses, pastor of Monumental Baptist Church; Rev. C. C. Scott, president of the Baptist Preachers' Association of Philadelphia; Rev. H. Y. Arnett, pastor of Mt. Pisgah A. M. E. Church; Mrs. S. W. Layton, president Women's Auxiliary to the National Baptist Convention; Mrs. Emma J. Roberts, president Philadelphia Conference Branch of the Mite Missionary Society, and Mrs. Mary Mossell-Griffin, editor of the Northeastern.

The movement deserves well of the community. If it succeeds, and we are sure it will, it will do great good.

At the meeting to be held next Monday night at Allen Church we trust every Philadelphia reader of The Recorder will be present.

Christian Recorder 9/30/15

NEWPORT BARS DIXON PLAY

COLORED CITIZENS OF NEWPORT, R. I., MASS MEETING—APPOINT COMMITTEE OF ALL COLORED TO INTERVIEW MAYOR—AFTER HEARING MAYOR SEES THEATRE MAN AND "BIRTH OF A NATION" DON'T SHOW—WHITE FRIENDS HELPED IN PRESS AND PULPIT.

(Special to the Guardian)

Newport, R. I., Sept. 1, 1915.—Last Wednesday a local paper announced the intention of the manager of the Opera House to exhibit in Newport in the near future the "Birth of a Nation." Immediately the vigilance of race-loving members called a mass meeting, where a committee, composed of Dr. Wheatland as chairman, Rev. H. A. Jater, Rev. J. L. Witter, Rev. C. L. Miller, Rev. W. B. Reed, D. B. Allen, Dr. M. A. N. Van Horne, Ernest E. Stewart, Wm. Jackson and others. This committee had a quiet interview with Mayor Burlingame the following day. There came to the committee's help, Ex-Judge Mahoney as counsellor. Dr. Wheatland presided. The most impressive feature of the conference was the eloquent, the discriminating and convincing pleas the leaders of their race advanced to prevent the play from coming to Newport, with marked earnestness. Local factions, here as elsewhere made concerted action against a racial foe difficult, but the film that grossly slanders us made us as one man fighting our foe.

Guardian 9/4/15

"BIRTH OF A NATION" FILM AN OUTRAGE, SAY NEGROES

Thousands Oppose Exhibition of Picture in Kansas.

Letters Protesting Against Screen Play, Characterized as Vicious, Pouring in on Governor and Censor.

If the state censorship boarl allows the film, "The Birth of a Nation," to be shown in Kansas, it will be over the protests of hundreds of negroes and scores of white people from all ove the state and country. Judge L. V Keplinger, of Kansas City, Kan., recently headed a vigorous protest against allowing the film to be shown in Kansas, alleging that it was unfair to the negro race, and tended to stir up race antagonism.

Letters of protest against the film are being received daily at the office of Governor Capper and W. D. Ross, superintendent of public instruction, state censor. The film has not been presented for state censorship nor shown anywhere in the state. The Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has organized a nation-wide fight against the film. It also has published a booklet, entitled, "Fighting a Vicious Film," containing quotations from various state and national figures either denouncing the film or refusing to endorse it. Oswald Garrison Villard, publisher of the New York Evening Post, says in a signed statement:

VILLARD CONDEMNS FILM.

"In my judgment the play should not be tolerated in any American city. In my judgment it is a deliberate attempt to humiliate ten million American citizens, and to portray them as nothing but beasts."

Secretary J. P. Tumulty, secretary to President Wilson, has a signed statement in the booklet denying that President Wilson had expressed approbation of the play. Last April 19 a delegation of colored citizens called on Governor Walsh, of Massachusettes, in the state house at Boston, and appealed to him to keep the film out of the state to protect the negroes from race hatred. In an address to the large delegation Governor Walsh is quoted as saying, among other things:

"I sympathize with you tremendously. If there is anything tending more to destroy and undermine American institutions and American liberty, it is race or religious prejudice. I don't propose, while I am governor of this state, to allow any movement arousing antagonism to any race of people in Massachusetts. If any such movements are to be caried on in Massachusetts they have got to be carried on underground where the sunlight does not shine.

"In good time I hope to be able to assist you. So, let me ask you to go away peacefully and orderly, and conscious of the fact that you enjoy just as full measure of rights as any other class of people, and that your race and your color have as much right to be respected as any other race or color, that you have no reason at all to be ashamed or humiliated at the fact that there may be here and there something objectionable to you and your people.

"Massachusetts has always been a friend of your race, and your men have fought and died for Massachusetts as bravely as any other men of any other race, and you are all loyal to her today.

"The constitution of this government guarantees to every man, woman and child an equal opportunity in life, and those things which tend to and create prejudice and hatreds and bigotry must be eliminated, not by force, but by law. Through your committee I will keep in touch with the situation."

"I don't suppose there was ever before a day like this witnessed in the State House in all its history. Men and women coming here with tears in their eyes, asking the governor to protect them from race hatred! I hope it will never happen again.

"I want you to know that I intend to assert every influence and power that I possess to keep Massachusetts free from race or religious prejudices. If our government has become great and has given to the world evidence of its God-given mission to mankind, it is due chiefly that here all men and all races are guaranteed equality of opportunity for the enjoyment of the blessings which the framers of our government guaranteed to all our citizens, and for which 140 years ago today the farmers of Massachusetts struck the first blow at Concord bridge."

Says "Birth of a Nation" Is Just to the South, to the Negro and to the Nation

(From the Houston Chronicle. By M. E. Foster, Editor and Publisher of the Chronicle.)

How any man or woman who keeps posted on current literature and theater topics could even think of questioning David W. Griffith's marvelous motion picture production, "The Birth of a Nation," is difficult to understand.

It is also hard to be patient and charitable when you read that a half dozen negroes of Houston, who have never seen this play and who know nothing as to its character, have had the unmitigated gall and nerve to approach the mayor of Houston and ask that such a production be suppressed.

I am a moving picture "fan" and a Southerner. I saw "The Birth of a Nation in New York and paid $2 for my seat. It was the best investment I ever made and I want to say to the people of Houston that every man and woman, and every child over 10 years of age, should see the play. Furthermore, every negro who can possibly gain admission should see it. It will prove beneficial to the negro race rather than harmful, and no negro can seriously object to it, except the class of negroes who objected in Boston—a society composed of both whites and negroes that is a stench in the nostrils of every decent person in this country.

It is difficult to put in cold type just what "The Birth of a Nation" is and means and portrays. It is a motion picture, and yet it is a new art in that great development. It was a Southerner, a Kentuckian, David W. Griffith, who put on this production, and he has given the world something that will make for him a name in history, literature and art.

It is true that he based his production to a large extent on Thomas K. Dixon's book, "The Clansman," but it is so much bigger and better than "The Clansman," and shows and teaches so much more, that it seems something entirely new and different.

It is a dozen plays in one. It is better than any play I have ever seen.

It is stronger than any book I have ever read. It is more vivid, more thrilling, more graphic, than any orator's words, or any painting produced by a master artist.

It is war; it is life; it is history; it is romance; it is thrilling drama; it is melodrama; it is beauty; it is pathos; it is music; it is poetry; it is everything combined in one great picture play.

* * *

"The Birth of a Nation" is a production that does justice to the South; that does justice to the negro; that does justice to the whole nation.

There is not one line or scene in the play that is suggestive or immoral. There is not one thing portrayed that could hurt the feelings of any sensible person.

It does justice to the South, it is true. It shows the days of storm and stress. It shows the Civil war in all its ghastly hideousness and terror. It shows the South stripped to the bone. It shows this great land suffering from the pangs of poverty and from the era of carpetbagism that was inflicted upon us after the war. It shows the days of reconstruction, with even the legislature of old South Carolina dominated by negroes, with negro "law makers" holding daily sessions. Then it shows the South coming into its own again. It shows the whites taking the reins of government, and it shows the Caucasian face once more in charge of the land that belonged to them, and that will ever be dominated by them.

But at the same time it shows how the South has done justice to the negro, and how the negro is living in better circumstances and greater comfort today than ever before. It gives pictures of the schools that have been erected for the negroes with taxes mainly paid by the whites. It shows some great industries that are run by negroes, and it shows how the negro is always helped by the whites of the South when he deserves their aid and support.

* * *

But to me the most impressive thing about this great production is its vast range. One minute you see a beautiful child of the South with tear-drops in her eyes; you see a Southern cottage, covered with vines and flowers; an old Southern homestead surrounded by singing darkies; you see an old "mammy;" you see happy slaves. A few minutes later there is a vast battle ground.

You see a beautiful valley, quiet and peaceful. Then the scene shifts and there is a vast army moving. You feel and hear the tread of countless feet. And it is only a picture.

You see Gen. Robert E. Lee's last stand on the famous battlefield of Petersburg, Va., and you hear the guns firing, the cries of the wounded, the yells, the charge, the repulse. You are lifted from your seat. You cry, you hate, you despair. And it is only a picture.

A little later you see a presentation of the assassination of Lincoln, that you could not grasp so vividly if you read history all night. There is unrolled before your eyes the old Ford theater in Washington. You see the audience assembling, talking, laughing. Then you see Lincoln, his family and his escort entering a box—the audience rises and cheers. Then the play begins. You see the guard who is watching Lincoln's box becoming absorbed in the play, allowing Booth to stealthily enter. Then comes the fatal shot that caused the nation to lose one of its greatest leaders, and caused the South days of untold terror and undeserved contumely.

Event after event like that is portrayed by these films. Historical characters—great men about whom you have read and dreamed, are made to appear before your eyes, lifelike, with all their peculiarities, their charms and some in all their hate and meanness.

There are bad negroes and there are good negroes shown; there are bad whites and there are good whites moving through the scenes. Both good and evil are portrayed; love is portrayed; hate is shown; fear—every human emotion.

* * *

Instead of considering whether this great production should be presented in Houston, there should be a movement on foot to have every school child in the city see it. Superintendent Horn should urge the 12,000 school children of this city to see it, if they can possibly do so. Dr. Lovett of the Rice institute should tell every student of that great college to go, if possible.

Any parent who fails to send a son or daughter to see this play is neglecting an educational opportunity.

There is more history taught in "The Birth of a Nation" than the average boy or girl could learn from studying or reading in six months' time.

And it is true history, for perhaps no book ever written, no play ever produced, has given a better insight into this country's great war, or the causes leading up to it and the conditions that existed after it than "The Birth of a Nation."

And such war pictures. You seem to hear the roar of guns and the rattle of musketry.

They are not pictures of war that inspire love of war, but they make you fear and hate war, for they show war in all its ghastly terror.

It shows the poverty to which war reduced the South. It shows the remnant of Southern soldiers returning to their homes in tattered garments, worn and emaciated. It shows those same heroes of the lost cause taking up the struggle again against nearly overwhelming odds. It shows the Southern homes that prior to the war were scenes of splendor and gaiety and lavish hospitality, reduced to ashes, or left stripped of all their fertile fields.

It shows so much, it gives such an insight into the birth of a nation and the history of a nation, that it is hard to give one any idea.

In order to fully appreciate and comprehend it all, the average person must not go once, but twice. Many men have been to see it half a dozen times, for each time you seem to get a new lesson—a new vision.

New York Tribune

15 August 1915

Miss Elaine Sterne, who has made herself nationally known as one of our best scenario writers, conceived the idea of writing a film answer. Miss Sterne first came into prominence in the film field by winning the first prize in the Vitagraph scenario contest with a picture drama entitled "The Sins of the Mothers." Later she won "The Morning Telegraph" prize for the best film, and several other prizes as well. She is special scenario contributor to the Vitagraph Company and the Universal Company, and has written many scenarios for other companies also, including the Selig Polyscope Company, the Fox Film Corporation, etc. She has won a Collier's prize with her short stories and contributes, among others, tales of child life to "The St. Nicholas Magazine." Perhaps her best known series of films are those entitled "Sonny Jim," of which she writes at least one a month for the Vitagraph Company.

Miss Sterne, having felt the necessity of showing the other side of the negro problem, took her proposition to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the time that this organization, under Mr. Villard, Rabbi Stephen Wise and others, was doing its utmost to have some of the objectionable scenes in "The Birth of a Nation" eliminated. The association was delighted with the idea, and at once sent Miss Sterne to Washington and further South, where she was put thoroughly in touch with the progress that the negro race has made. She visited practically every institution of this kind, including the Hampton Institute and Tuskegee, where she spent some time in consultation with Booker T. Washington. Having collected her material, Miss Sterne then proceeded to write her answer, which she intends calling "Lincoln's Dream," and which is to be twelve reels in length.

The problem of financing this big undertaking was undertaken by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and Miss Sterne, in her enthusiastic co-operation, was called to Boston and other New England points to read her synopsis, this calling forth the approval, in Boston, of Professor Hart, one of the best authorities on this portion of American history, who complimented Miss Sterne on the accuracy, as well as the interest, of her work. After considerable effort, the money necessary for so large a production was forthcoming, and yesterday a contract was finally signed with the Universal company, whereby they agreed to screen the story, and also, it is most likely, to allow Otis Turner, whose production of "Samson" and other large subjects entitles him to this distinction, to produce it.

When completed, "Lincoln's Dream" will be booked throughout the land as a special feature and sent out, over routes covered by "The Birth of a Nation." Every colored organization in the country has agreed to do its share in giving this production publicity and the colored people who have been consulted before and after the composition of the play are highly enthusiastic at the prospect. They claim that the optimistic nature of the subject and the thorough understanding that Miss Sterne has put into her script is the first, as they consider it, fair discussion and exposition of their development that they have been given since the Civil War.

Philadelphia Record

.30 August 1915

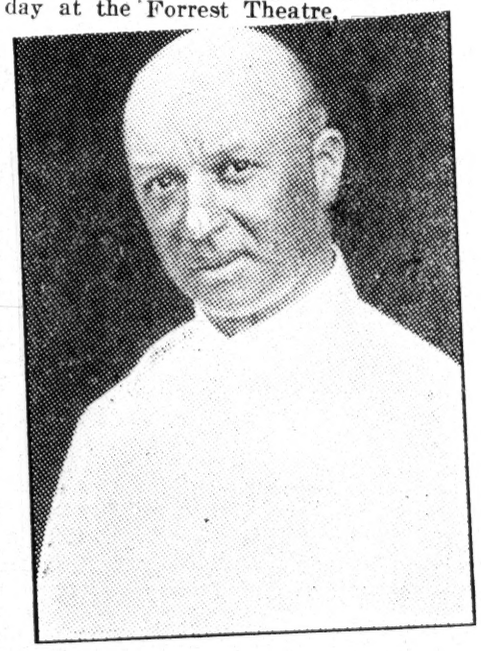
NEGROES MEET IN PROTEST

Demand That "Birth of a Nation" Film Be Suppressed.

Resolutions protesting against the showing of "The Birth of a Nation," a photoplay dealing with the negro problem in the South, were adopted last night at a mass-meeting held on City Hall plaza. The resolutions were presented by Dr. Caesar A. A. B. Taylor, colored, and declared that the motion picture would arouse a prejudice against negroes which would limit their chances of progress among the whites. The negro orators held that Director Porter had refused them a permit to hold a street parade and meeting in protest, and hinted that they would oppose his Mayoralty intentions. The mass-meeting was held under the auspices of the Brotherhood Welfare Association.

The speakers were Dr. Taylor, William Quirk, secretary of the association; Theodore Penny, colored, and Charles E. White, a colored graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. In the course of his address White said:

"'The Birth of a Nation' stirs up the kind of race prejudice which was responsible for the lynching of Leo Frank. It brands all negroes as beasts who are vicious and incapable of refinement. The aim of the play, as admitted by Dixon, who wrote the novel from which it is taken, is to counteract the advancement of the negroes and keep them beneath the sway of the Southern whites. If the play did justice to the colored race, it would mention somewhere the 50,000 negroes who laid down their lives in the civil war." The film is billed to open next Saturday at the Forrest Theatre.



DOCTOR TERRY

Of Atlantic City—Courageous and Raceloyal leader in fight on "Birth of a Nation."

Phila. Eve. Public Ledger

.30 August 1915

ATTACK "BIRTH OF NATION"

"Dr." Moses Stern Presides at Meeting of Protest

A bitter protest against "The Birth of a Nation," the moving-picture drama which is to open at the Forrest Theatre next Saturday, was forwarded to Mayor Blankenburg today in the form of three typewritten pages of resolutions adopted at a meeting held last night on the City Hall plaza.

"Doctor" Moses Stern presided at the meeting, and, although the audience was composed largely of white men, E. A. Caesar, a negro, and A. A. P. Taylor, a Cherokee Indian, were the principal speakers of the evening. The ground upon which the picture was attacked was that it might cause racial difficulties in this city.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

W. ALLISON SWEENEY RECITES FACTS ABOUT "THE REAL BIRTH OF A NATION

What the L is that?

What, this thing they call "The Birth of a Nation"?

And will I say a word thereto; it, and its chief sponsor in these diggings, The Chicago Tribune, "The World's (?) Greatest (?) Newspaper (?) Will I? Give me elbow room.

It is inconceivable that there can be found those other than fools or weak-eyed sentimentalists, so daring as to have named this spawn of hell, this decoction of lies and putrid imagination, "The Birth of a Nation"—his nation.

Recall that passage in the history of our country, measured by a space of fifteen years, known as the period of Reconstruction, that furnishes the pictures that the Chicago Tribune speaks of as "the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers", and imagine, if you can, that it was the hour and the day that heralded "The Birth of a Nation."

Such a violation of the truths and ethics of history, is so farfetched and preposterous that did not surprise and indignation swallow us up, choke us, we might be moved to laughter.

The birth of a nation—ours—those fifteen years of American history—DARK, BLOODY, HORRIBLE!

For one hundred and thirty-nine years, Attucks, the black, whose heroic devotion and martyred life on the plains of Lexington went out with his blood, THAT THIS NATION MIGHT BE BORN, has slept in peace on the spot of The Birth—IN FACT—of a nation—OUR NATION, this mighty commonwealth, and to have that glory appropriated, stolen at this distant day, even by so inconsequential an agency as a picture film, by the descendants and sympathizers of men who, for five bloody years strove to destroy it, in the interest of human slavery, is enough to call the sheeted loyal dead to life and arms again, with Lincoln walking ahead.

Said the Tribune in its editorial, boosting the pictured crime:

The moving picture play "The Birth of a Nation" is, in our opinion, the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers. It ranks with "Cabiria" as a tremendous spectacle and for the American temperament it has points of artistic advantage over the D'Annunzio photoplay.

Granting the artistic atmosphere and beauty of the films, it is the DIRTIEST, VILEST TRAVESTY on the RIGHT TRUTHS of AMERICAN HISTORY, as the Negro is affected, ever shown, spoken of, or in any manner depicted in this country. Again:

In Chicago it has thus far been barred from production. It is not immoral or coarse. It does not offend for any of the reasons which usually cause the prohibition of picture plays or the elimination of scenes from them. It is in all essential episodes grounded on historical fact, representing the struggles of that terrible time in the South when the whites, back from the war, saw their government taken over by the newly enfranchised blacks controlled by the northern carpetbaggers.

Not immoral or coarse! Spirits of the damned, SHADES OF HELL! Pardon, please. I had deemed you potentates amongst the liars. You have rivals.

"THEIR government!" TRAITORS, MISCREANTS, in comparison to whom Judas Iscariot was a saint; Benedict Arnold an angel of light. They HAD NO GOVERNMENT; were entitled to NO RIGHTS!

What happened with the Negro ascendant and how the white re-established his supremacy is shown with obvious natural sympathy for the South, and no doubt with such heightening of effect as dramatic art has a right to employ. It presents what the South says and the North of our day, at least, is inclined to believe to be truth.

"What happened" etc. What, I ask of you, Mr. Tribune, DID NOT HAPPEN? What, in the galaxy of CRIME TORTURE, INHUMANITY; of REFINED, HORRIBLE SAVAGERY WAS NOT PERPETRATED UPON THE BLACK MAN OF THAT CURSED SECTION, IS NOT BEING PERPETRATED THIS VERY DAY—THIS VERY HOUR? CRIME OF ALL THE CENTURIES! ITS STORY IS YET TO BE WRITTEN, IN ALL OF ITS SOMBRENESS, ALL OF ITS BLEEDING, TEARFUL AWFULNESS.

The Tribune has been and is opposed to interference with freedom of expression, but it confesses that the subject here involved has complexities which do not yield to the application of ordinary rules. The terrible concrete reality of the moving picture is the disturbing factor and the consequent emotional response of the spectator is the disturbing result. The sin of the film is its effectiveness.

"Opposed to interference with freedom of expression."

Oh, dear, oh, my, Mr. Tribune man, and, in the fervid expression of Widow Bedot, "Who would have thunk it ov yer"? But how about interference with the freedom of breathing—of life. The right to stand in God's sunshine by the black man of the South? Are you "opposed" to any interference with THAT?

The South is billowed with the rotten, unmarked, lost graves, in swamp, lagoon and highway, of thousands of murdered men, whose only crime—was God's, in that He created them black. Has there been a time, a day, Mr. Tribune man, when employing the great possibilities at your disposal, you have declared to the country, to the world, you were "opposed" to the taking of these lives? Bestir yourself, ransack your cobwebby memory, run over your files that you may answer truthfully.

With the blotting out of these lives, the scorching of those "Souls of Black Folk," whose main misdemeanors, as God reigns in glory, were that they were black, and upon a time helped in whipping those who sought the nation's life, went the burning of homes, the maltreatment of mothers, wives, sisters and daughters—the womanhood of a people—were you, are you today, "opposed" to those woeful tragedies?

Were you ever "opposed" to THESE things, and being so, have you ever proclaimed it? Dare you, are you really great enough, broad and untainted with Negrophobia sufficiently to proclaim it, justice asking, TODAY, TOMORROW and TOMORROW?

Are not you, have not you always been an apologist of the South, a truckler and a sneering grinner, as against the Negro, ofttimes, audaciously, cruelly, without shame or contrition?

Day after day, now, at this very moment, and harking back through the years of the past, with no gleam of hope streaking the encircling skies, all over this broad land, rich through the toil of our fathers, sodden by the bloodshed of our brothers, East, West, North and South, in this great caravansary of teeming millions, beneath your very nose, within the very vision of your one-sided gaze—so sure of the slightest error in the Negro—are thousands upon thousands of Negro boys and girls, men and women in the making, American citizens by birth and law, denied their place in the sun, the opportunity to labor that bread may be theirs to eat, or a chance to rise afforded, treading with a desperation born of hopelessness, the primrose path that leads to CRIME, PRISON, DEATH—going to hell in hordes.

Of these heart-wringing conditions, this shameful indictment of American justice (?) and American civilization (?) what have you ever said in condemnation, shouted from the housetops; WHAT, TODAY, HAVE YOU TO SAY?

Is it known? Have you ever proclaimed it, even as so recently you have your praises of this vile picture reel, tending to bind tighter the clanking chains of intolerance and prejudice around the limbs of black people?

Are you "opposed" to this compound hindering of a race, this slow murdering of a people, of millions of men and women to come, through boys and girls hourly being pressed down, driven to hopelessness, hurried to destruction?

"Birth of a Nation," THAT filth, Mr. Tribune man, and—think of it, YOU—you, its sponsor.

Birth of a nation? No, oh, no; not THAT pictured lie.

THIS SHALL BE its name: "THE REJUVENATOR of the MEMORY of a CRIME," dead, rotten, stinking!

A nation's shame; the pity of it—the pity.

Why should it have been resurrected? Tell us, if you can, O wise and great, Mr. Tribune man.

Why should you—you, of all forces—director, guide, soul of "The world's (?) greatest (?) newspaper," urge your fellows to resurrect and glorify that dark hour in our country's story?

Why ask that we moisten with our tears the graves of the Ku Klux Clan, the midnight murderers—slayers of helpless black men, despoilers of helpless womanhood—rapers of the queens of a race—queens, mark you, just as surely as those with eyes of blue and flaxen hair—our dear ones.

Why re-garland such graves as these? Why sigh above the bones of this dead and disgraced horde of the burners of homes, of human flesh? Can it be you have forgotten them—can it be?

Must, should such as THESE be justified; and the just and good, who suffered in the Southland, and went to their rest haloed in the approbation of Almighty God be sneered at, censured and made a joke of?

"The Birth of a Nation!" To hell with it, and may the upright, loyal American—black or white—shun it. NOT because it is dangerous. Oh, no; but because it's just a filthy, pictured lie.

Mr. Dobie As A Historian

Mr. R. A. Dobie is Superintendent of the Public Schools of Norfolk. He has under his supervision about twelve thousand children of school age, white and colored. What he does and what he says ought to go a long way toward shaping their ideals, their morals and their education. Therefore Mr. Dobie ought to be careful of what he says.

Mr. Dobie is the subject of this editorial because he has been quoted in the press as giving his un-

qualified endorsement to the Dixon photo-play, "The Birth Of A Nation."

These are Mr. Dobie's words as quoted:

"It is a wonderful lesson in history. The historical scenes are wonderful and the incidents depicted are true to the facts."

We deny that statement with just as much positiveness as Mr. Dobie affirms it.

What are some of the incidents depicted in the play which Mr. Dobie says are true to the facts?

(1) A Negro lieutenant governor of South Carolina is shown in the film attempting to commit rape upon a young white woman in his private office. His name is Lynch When he has gagged the young woman and locked the doors the Ku Klux Klan rush in, break down the doors, rescue the young woman and lynch the lieutenant governor. There never was but one Negro elected to such an office during the "Carpet Bag" regime. His name is P. B. S. Pinchback, he held office in Louisana and he is living today and his deportment as a citizen has been such that he is respected by his white neighbors. We challenge Mr. Dixon or Mr. Dobie to prove by any living witness or written record that anything of the sort ever occurred.

(2) A half-clad wild eyed Negro is shown in the film chasing young white girl over a circuitous route up to the edge of a cliff. In her effort to escape outrage she dashes herself to death upon the rocks a hundred feet below. This brute is captured and lynched in a view of the audience by the Ku Klux Klan, and his mutiliated corpse thrown upon the porch of the "Lieutenant governor." We challenge Mr. Dixon or Mr. Dobie to authenticate this incident, or to give it historical value, or decency.

(3) The pictures depict a company of Negro United States soldiers in uniform, commanded by a white officer, taking possession of a town and shooting down white people for no offence whatever running amuck like fiends, destroying property and committing all manner of outrages. Not a single Southern historian has ever written that any such incident ever occurred, and we challenge Mr. Dobie or Mr. Dixon to produce one authenticated instance of the kind.

There may be some incidents depicted in the "Birth of a Nation" that are "true to the facts." But the scenes that stand out sharply above all the rest are the diabolical portrayals of Negro characters during the reconstruction period, which as depicted is not true history but fictitious romance.

Suppose it was true? Is it in accord with public policy? Do the books taught in the public schools over which Mr. Dobie is superintendent depict the scenes in Dixon's drama? Is it possible that with all of the history that has been written by Southern scholars we have got to learn the true history of the nation from the inspired dramas of Thomas Dixon, who was born long after the occurrence of the events which he depict as true history?

Mr. Dobie is a public official. He occupies a place closely related to the home and family life of Norfolk citizens, white and colored. If there was any position for him to take upon this controversary upon which there is a sharp division of opinion, he, of all men, should have taken a neutral stand.

Ku Klux Klan and negro troops as are there represented. The Ku Klux operated in small bands, mostly at night. There were, however, serious race riots in many southern states. Then, Thaddeus Stevens, one of the greatest of American parliamentary leaders, who is represented by Stoneman, was not married. So all that dramatic matter about his sons and his daughters visiting South Carolina is not based on any facts of his life.

It is true that the Reconstruction policy of Stevens, though based on lofty motives and on the great theory of democracy, was proven a serious mistake. Stevens himself, however hardly saw the worst of it for he died in 1868. It was of course impossible that persons just released from slavery and densely ignorant of everything relating to government could be fitted for government all at once, and there was much reckless extravagance and corruption in the legislatures which for a time were dominated by them.

The power of Thaddeus Stevens is considerably exaggerated in the play, though he did come pretty close to being a dictator of policies during the period when Congress steadily voted measures over President Johnson's vetoes. The execution of the reconstruction laws was nevertheless in Johnson's hands and not in the hands of Stevens, and it may be doubted whether his general influence in shaping the policies of Reconstruction was much greater than that of Charles Sumner of Massachusetts. Stevens was the majority leader in the House of Representatives and Sumner in the Senate during the period portrayed.

New York Globe

DEC 31 1915

NOT STRICTLY HISTORICAL—We have been asked several times whether the motion picture play "The Birth of a Nation" is strictly historical. It isn't, and furthermore it is partisan and conveys an unfair impression of some things. The criticisms that have been made of it in newspapers where it has been presented earlier have caused changes to be made to take some of the sting of unfairness to the colored people out of it, but the reconstruction features still remain grossly exaggerated and unfair in their presentation. Considerable liberties have been taken with facts of history for dramatic effect. For instance there never were any such battles between the

April 1915

"Why Should Niggers Live?"

Editor of The Globe, Sir—The simplest and readiest answer to this ingenuous question is "because they do live." But some of your readers, having in mind the events of the past eight months in Europe, might correctly answer, "Niggers and East Indians—who are niggers to Englishmen in times of peace—niggers live in order to die on the plains of Champagne and in the trenches of the Belgian dunes." In like manner, taking into consideration the circumstances under which this question was asked, it could effectively be answered, "Niggers should live because niggers died at New Orleans, at Fort Wagner, at San Juan Hill, to assist in the birth and growth of the American nation; but above all, niggers should live and do live to make money for a writer and producer of moving pictures."

The question above quoted was not asked by a child who had been terrified by the nursery bugaboo of the black man. It was uttered by a woman of apparent refinement as she witnessed the moving picture travesty of "The Birth of a Nation"—the American nation. . . .

This film has been heralded far and wide as the finest product of the cinematographer's art, and its authors have been acclaimed as the most potent and timely advocates of peace and good will to men. In all the costly advertisements and press notices not the slightest inkling is given to the public of the real motive of the film. Most people have forgotten that "The Clansman," as an attempt at the drama, was killed by disinterested critics and a discriminating public in cities where its production was not absolutely forbidden by the authorities in the interest of public order and decency. . . .

The mayor of New York can and ought to forbid the exhibition of Griffith's picture show because of its demoralizing effect upon the people who see it. The people of New York can and ought to make impossible the film reproduction of Dixon's "Clansman," because this story is as crude in its conception of art as it is false in its interpretation of history. Even a person of Negro blood can feel a certain sympathy for the southern whites after the civil war, but, apart from the question of the usefulness or the propriety of reiterating and magnifying the humiliation which they had brought upon themselves, there can be no justification for rewriting the history of reconstruction to conform to the race theories of a type of whites who had little or no influence in the events which Dixon and Griffith attempt to portray. The theme of "The Birth of a Nation" is contrary to the experience of white people who have lived in Hayti since the slaves wrung their freedom from the French colonists. The Dixon thesis is false in the light of the experience of white people in Brazil, in Cuba, in the British and French West Indies, where black men have really been free since slavery was abolished. And until "The Clansman" appeared the testimony of southern whites who had any real knowledge of the matter was uniform in its praise of the behavior to white women of Negro men.

Not that the black men had and have no cause to act otherwise. The words "reprisal" and "vindictiveness" may not be in the vocabulary of a great many Negroes, but it is reasonable to suppose that the feeling which these words express would not be limited to Germans and Russians. Columbia, S. C., is a town made hotter by Blease than by Sherman. . . .

The Dixon-Griffith picture makes characteristic of an entire race a species of crime which, were it a thousand times as real and frequent as it is infrequent and unreal, would not be a drop of reprisal and retribution in the ocean of infamy and iniquity expressed in a recent letter of Senator Tillman. The theme of "The Birth of a Nation" is infinitely outweighed by the very existence of the mulatto, who, because of the blood of his white father, receives more of the odium of the Negro-baiters than does the black man, the "faithful colored servant" of people who never used to have colored servants.

The millions of victims of the cupidity of a few men are not asking why these traffickers in a nation's gullibility and a people's good name should live, but the Negroes and a great many white people of this city cannot see why "The Birth of a Nation" should be allowed to flaunt and vaunt itself as a thing of beauty and truth. Had he lived in South Carolina Alexandre Dumas might have been a victim of the Ku Klux Klan. Living in France, he and his son, the son of a pure white but unlettered laundress, wrote better literature than has ever come from the brain and pen of Dixon. The elder Dumas was especially clever at taking hold of an idea of fact or fancy and making it the centre of a romance of what seemed to be real history to people who knew nothing about history. As his characters were all dead and gone, none of them could raise any objection to his portrayal of them. But the Negro is going to live for some time in this country, and ten millions of people object on very good ground to the characterization of the Negro in Dixon's "historical" creations.

Up to the present, at least, no one has said that the murderer of the little Cohn girl must have been a Negro, as would have been the case if this child had been outraged and killed in Atlanta or Columbia. Suppose another colored Dumas, or a Chinese or Japanese Dumas, took this crime and magnified it and so adroitly manipulated it as to make the vast millions of his congeners believe that the white people of this city, of this nation, were a race of vile and loathsome degenerates. Who could measure the end of that impression? This is exactly the impression regarding the Negro which southern whites of the Dixon stripe have been giving not only to the people of the United States but to the civilized world.

The American Negro feels keenly the shortcomings of his race, but he is also well aware that in the account of his relations with his white neighbor the balance of credit is in his own favor. "The Birth of a Nation" needed not be added to the white man's debit. Negroes are not likely to blow up the theatre where this film is exhibited and blow out the brains of its producers. They know that they have stood undaunted through so much of vilification that they feel they can stand this, too, if they must. But they should not have to stand for "The Birth of a Nation." The self-respecting people of this country should not tolerate "The Birth of a Nation."

The Griffith film is not a work of art, because it does not achieve the aim of art. It does not uplift the mind and beautify the spirit. It takes dollars and gives degradation. It incites its spectators to blood-lust and murder. It menaces the public peace. . . .

In this day, when all the world is asking why should men—white and black and brown and yellow—why should men die like cattle? In this city, whose teeming cosmopolitan throngs seem to say that men need not die like cattle because they do not look and speak alike; in this city, where millions of men and women are eagerly, earnestly, peaceably trying to answer the question how to live; in this city, which in many ways may justly be called the centre and focus of civilization; in this city let it not be possible so to debase one of the greatest inventions of civilization as to make it put into the heart and speech of a normally intelligent and rational woman a question hardly to be expected of children and savages, the question, "Why should niggers live?"

JOSE CLARANA.

New York, April 1.

New York Times

October 1915

"The Birth of a Nation" in Church.

The moving picture, "The Birth of a Nation," was shown last night in the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church in 104th Street, before a vast audience of Methodist ministers from all over the State. The church performance was arranged by the Rev. Dr. C. F. Reisner, and was given through the courtesy of D. W. Griffith, who produced the picture. The picture was shown in every detail as at the Liberty Theatre, with orchestral accompaniment.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

The Dirt of a Nation

American moneyed interests and their allies are trying hard to enslave the Negroes who fought and died to save the Union. They have damned Lincoln—yea, a thousand times—because HE would insist on human rights of all men. He was tired of lieing to the world that his was a free nation when he knew that there were over 6,000,000 slaves. With this new slavery our fellow citizens are fighting tot place the shackles on us again. WE, the American Negroes, prefer death rather than submit. Why were they so anxious to keep the Jeffries-Johnson fight off the screen? We, then, demand The Dirt of a Nation canned.

SIMULTANEOUSLY LAST WEEK appeared in several of the morning newspapers a tremendous hue and cry against censorship of moving pictures. The reason to be apparently of the propaganda is not alone the bann placed upon the film show, "The Birth of a Nation," but evidently some "persuasion" had been handed out the night before by the promoters by way of "influence."

The following supposedly sarcastic editorial recently appeared in "The World's Greatest Newspaper," and which we reproduce only to show the trend of their arguments:

BOTH PLAINTIFF AND JUROR.

Mayor Thompson proposes to find out for once and for all whether or not the exhibition of this "The Birth of a Nation" moving picture drama will arouse the whites of the community to acts of blood and violence against the brethren of the Second Ward. Therefore and forthwith an appeal is addressed to thirty or forty colored men of the cloth to foregather at a private exhibition and decide whether the 2,500,000 or so Germans, Swedes, Italians, Chinese, and other everyday Americans living in Chicago could sit through a picture show which presents unsympathetically the Negroes and northern carpetbaggers of the reconstruction days.

What a novel and interesting suggestion it is! There are always so many hard knocks ahead for the executive, who must decide when the people are divided on what they want, anyway. The permit to show was revoked and the board of censors overruled upon the protestations of some colored gentlemen, it will be recalled. Then the censored complained, and now the kin of the plaintiffs are called into court to act as jurors in the final hearing.

The procedure for the friends of the particular film and the general theory of censorship is as clear as mud.

But anyway it gives the mayor an alibi.

Just last Friday week the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in a decision upheld the right of the authorities to censor and supervise motion picture shows. The decision indeed was opportune. Producers seem to lose all sight of the baneful effect some shows have upon the populace, especially upon children, thinking only of profits they can attract to the box office.

But just a word about "The Birth of a Nation," which is big only in size and paradoxically small in morality, since it exploits the colored man of reconstruction days in the character of a profligate. After the carnage of bloodshed and disease the country suffered through the Civil War, who has made the new South and without suitable reward?

One of our esteemed contemporaries makes such a beautiful word painting in behalf of the production. Their argument is based solely upon the ground that the play is true to history. But what specious argument—what a wolf in sheep's clothing! We dare say there is no man who breathes but who has things recorded in his own history he does not care to have flaunted before the public gaze. Who cares even for that history of our own nation, when that history reads only of calumny and travail following slavery days—the darkest blot upon the escutcheon of America.

Another paper asks a question in its loquacity, why should a picture show require especial restraint? The shame of dethroning King Reason in behalf of King Coin. We might also ask, in line with the carnival of mental debauchery—no long green in sight for us, however—why should we have policemen, or why do we need an army or navy in these piping times of peace? Why restrain any of the populace in an endeavor to strike a popular chord?

It is a fact that the populace is most often wrong. The rights of the people are not always safe with the people—with apologies to our lamented Lincoln, 'tis most often the FEW who are right, the FEW who think, who by superior mentality have viewpoints above the crowd.

Where "The Birth of a Nation" was conceived, too often the popular chord is a hideous, monstrous medley of mob law, and the bay of the bloodhounds. The spectacle the producers say, cost one hundred and fifty thousand simoleons—chief argument to Mayor Thompson in trying to elude the bann—but cares Mayor Thompson for the cost of a battering ram which is constructed to torpedo away the life and well being of ten million souls? MR. THOMPSON IS A HUMANITARIAN.

Finally let us glean from this situation the object lesson of vigilance and strength as the weaker people to fight our fight against the strong. Let us always register our protest, often unheeded, against violation of our natural rights, and the despoilation of the privileges of our citizenship. Let us keep tab upon our friends as well as upon our enemies and through the days of tribulation keep, also, HOPE.

April 1915

NEGRO WOMEN OFFER TO DIE TO STOP FILM

Organize Vigilance Committee, Hiss Mayor's Name and Demand His Recall.

Mayor Curley and the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," shared unequally in condemnation and denunciation at a mass meeting of Negroes at the Twelfth Baptist Church, Shawmut avenue, Roxbury, yesterday afternoon, called to express indignation against the continued exhibition of the play. The mayor received by far the larger share of the censure.

The mayor was stigmatized as "t most hypocritical mayor that the ci of Boston has ever had"; it was asserted that to hold good now the invitation that has been extended to his honor to speak at a meeting of the church in May would be to "desecrate the platform"; the mayor was threatened with the recall; his name was hissed, and, last but not least, the name of John F. Fitzgerald was cheered to the echo when his action in forbidding the continued production of "The Clansman" was contrasted with Mayor Curley's failure to order "The Birth of a Nation" to quit business in Boston.

The meeting was called by Mrs. Olivia Ward Bush Banks and its announced purpose was to form "a protecting league of all colored women of Greater Boston for the maintenance and protection of their civil rights." Such an organization was formed, with Mrs. Banks as its president and Mrs. Minnie Wright as chairman of the "vigilance committee of 100 women."

Mrs. Wright presided at the meeting and feeling ran high. The name of Curley was always the signal for hisses and some of the more excitable women added to the demonstration by shouting out very uncomplimentary things about Boston's chief executive.

Pastor Denounces Mayor.

It was the Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, pastor of the church, who declared that the invitation extended to Mayor Curley to speak at the church in May would be withdrawn. He said:

"As far as it is within my power to recall Mr. James Curley, that will be done now; that is, he will be told his services are not wanted at a meeting to which he had been invited in May. I would not desecrate the platform of our church with Mr. James Curley." Mr. Shaw accused the mayor of "hiding behind the law."

"Mayor Curley never meant a word of anything he said to us at his office. If the Legislature gave him the power he would not exercise it," declared the pastor.

Clement G. Morgan, an attorney, condemned the action of the police upon the night that the arrests were made at the Tremont Theatre, and said that it was without cause. Mr. Morgan charged Mayor Curley with failing to do what he had promised. "You have an opportunity to recall your mayor next fall," he said. "The man sitting in that chair should not be there to represent the people."

"When we took our message to former Mayor Fitzgerald, while he was in office, regarding 'The Clansman,' he gave us audience and did something for us," said Morgan, and for several minutes the audience applauded the mention of ex-Mayor Fitzgerald's name..

"At that time we were sent to Commissioner O'Meara and then we were sent back to the mayor," continued Atty. Morgan. "He told us if it was up to him it would go and it went. I don't like Mayor Curley; he is the most hypocritical mayor ever in the chair. An opportunity is given for recall; if there are any here at this meeting that are not registered, now is the time to fix it up."

Women Not Afraid to Die.

Joshua Crawford, another colored lawyer, said that every Negro, "from the man in the gutter to the man on the pinnacle" is working to drive "The Birth of a Nation" out of Boston, "and we are not going to stop. It has got to go or they will have to put us in jail."

William Monroe Trotter read several telegrams from Philadelphia lauding Gov. Walsh and Lieut.-Gov. Cushing for their position in the matter. Mr. Trotter introduced resolutions condemning the Boston police for their actions at the Tremont Theatre affair. They were adopted.

Mrs. Wright made an impassioned address. "What pride is it for me to say that I was born in Boston if I am put in bondage in my home?" she inquired. "Let me take back that I was born in this city, until Boston clears her name. We are here to stay in the fight, until God tells us to go home, or until we lose our last drop of blood. The police are nothing more than brutes. They are low-down men wearing the uniform."

"We want 'The Birth of a Nation' removed from the city of Boston and we women of Boston propose to see that it goes. If we can't get rid of it by fair means, it will be by foul means," said Dr. Alice W. McKane. "If there are men here afraid to die, there are women who are not afraid. This play would not be tolerated if it affected any other race or people. If discrimination is made because we are black, soon there will be religious and racial discrimination and that would be very dangerous. The order of the court was a very weak one and the play is now worse that it was with the chase scene in it. They think us a poor helpless set of black people, but if this thing is humiliating to us it should be doubly humiliating to the white people. We are not ignorant and if the people of Boston will have 'The Birth of a Nation' they will have it in full."

Other speakers were Mrs. Agnes Adams, Mrs. Charles King, Mrs. Joshua Crawford, Dr. W. O. Taylor, Mrs. William Cromwell, Mrs. Charles Moore,

Mrs. Henry Batchelder, the Rev. Mr. Auten and Mrs. Auten.

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28 April

NEGROES PLACED ON TRIAL

Were Arrested at Tremont Theatre Disturbance

Two Are Found Guilty of Using Profanity

One of Them Is a Baptist Church Trustee

Trotter and Puller Cases Come Up Last

Though he testified that he is a trustee of the Baptist Church and has been for eighteen years, and despite the fact that he claimed to have said nothing more vehement than "My Lord," James L. Dunn of West Newton, one of the negroes arrested at the disturbance in front of the Tremont Theatre a week ago last Saturday night, in connection with the demonstration against "The Birth of a Nation," was found guilty of using profanity and fined $2 today.

Sergeant King of the Lagrange street station, who arrested him, testified that he said "the cops" were "foreign —— —— white trash." Fred Banks, another negro arrested at the same time and in the same locality and charged with using profanity, was found guilty and his case was placed on file. A third negro, John C. Hinds, a waiter at the Hotel Haywood, charged with loitering, was discharged.

The cases, of which there are about a dozen, were put on trial in a special sitting of the Municipal Court presided over by Judge Brackett and held in the grand jury room. Though the room is a fairly large one, it was not sufficiently commodious to accommodato all the negroes who wished to enter, and many stood in the anteroom and in the corridor all through the session. Only three cases were finished when the morning session adjourned, and at that time three more were on trial. These were Mrs. Clara Foskey, charged with assault and battery on a police officer, and James T. Bivens and Stephen Massey, charged with attempting to rescue a prisoner. The cases of William Munroe Trotter and Rev. Aaron W. Puller, considered the most important, will not be tried until the last, probably not before late this afternoon or tomorrow. These men are charged, in addition to disorderly conduct, with inciting a riot.

The case of Banks was taken up first and Sergeant King was the principal witness. It was quickly disposed of, the defendant being found guilty and the case filed.

John C. Hinds was the next defendant called. He is a waiter at Hotel Hayward. Sergeant Oscar W. Burgess of the LaGrange street station testified that the defendant was standing near the corner of Tremont and Avery streets Saturday night, April 17 an dthat when he asked him to move on he said he wouldn't. He asged him once or twice more and finally arrested him.

Hinds was then put on the stand and examined by Edgar P. Benjamin, counsel for the defence. He said he was at work in the hotel when a message was brought to him that his wife had been caught in the crowd at the Tremont Theatre, had been pushed off the sidewalk and her ankle hurt. He went directly to the vicinity of the Tremont Theatre and was standing on a corner looking for his wife when he was told to move on. He replied that he was not loitering. The officer did not tell any of the white people who were near him to move. He was cross-examined by John S. Graham for the Government. Hinds's wife testified as to her injury and of telephoning for her husband and Dr. F. R. Coursey testified to attending Mrs. Hinds. The court discharged Hinds.

James L. Dunn, charged with profanity, was defended by J. W. Schencks. Sergeant King said he arrested him about eleven o'clock. He was walking along Tremont street, making gestures and swearing. He said he was a citizen and that the "cops" were "foreign —— —— white trash." Patrolman William H. Carnes testified similarly to Sergeant King.

Dunn, when placed on the stand, said he lived in West Newton, which had been his home for many years. He came in shopping Saturday night with four ladies. All he said, he claimed, was "My Lord man, how do you expect for me to move any faster than I am." The policeman grabbed him and twisted his wrist, which is still sore. He said he was a trustee of the Baptist Church and had been for eighteen years and denied that he had drank a drop of liquor on the night in question.

Miss Lillian Lawson, niece and housekeeper for Dunn, proved one of the most interesting witnesses of the day. She was very earnest and had at times to be restrained in her anxiety to answer fully every question. She said that in the crowd she was almost shoved down when she was walking along holding on to her uncle's arm. Attorney Graham asked a number of questions in his endeavor to find out where Dunn and the witness had been during the evening up to eleven o'clock, when she said they were starting for home. She was vague as to the stores they had visited in their shopping tour, and when the attorney attempted to assist her by asking what she had bought she said, "That, sir, I will not tell you." The court held that the Government had established a case and fined the defendant $2.

Mrs. Clara Foskey, charged with assault and battery on a police officer and James T. Bivens and Stephen Massey, charged with attempting to rescue a prisoner, were then put on trial together. Patrolman Thomas H. Dowling said he saw thte Foskey woman strike patrolman Van Laningham. eH had been watching her for some time and saw her elbow her way through the crowd of theatre patrons. He asked some of the theatre patrons to complain of her but they refused. Once she drew a hat-pin and he would have arrested her for that, but was trying to be lenient and not act as if prejudiced against the negroes. eH also testified that he saw Massey take hold of the woman's arm and try to push officer Van Laningham away. These cases were on trial when adjournment was reached.

APR 17 1915

METHODISTS IN PROTEST AGAINST 'BIRTH OF NATION'

Resolutions protesting against the production of "The Birth of a Nation" in New England were passed today by 300 ministers attending the New England Conference of Methodist Ministers at People's Temple. The resolutions were presented by Rev. W. J. King, pastor of the Fourth Methodist church of Boston. There was much applause when he concluded his talk. He said that he had seen the film at the Boston theatre and that it "engenders race hatred and has a demoralizing effect on white and colored citizens alike and is dangerous to public welfare."

"After seeing the film, a person leaves with prejudice against the negro race," declared Mr. King. "One of the things the film tries to teach is that one of the ruling ambitions of the negro is to marry a white woman. Such is not the fact."

At the conclusion of Mr. King's talk, another minister arose and amended the resolution so that the protest against the film would include all New England instead of Boston and vicinity. Then the resolutions, in amended form, was passed without a dissenting voice.

The resolution as passed and amended was as follows:

"Resolved, that we urgently protest against the exhibition in the moving picture theatres of New England of the play called 'The Birth of a Nation.'

"This play is a gross and demoralizing misrepresentation of the colored population of our country, untrue in fact, cruel in spirit, fruitful of race prejudice, demoralizing to whites and blacks alike and dangerous to the public welfare."

Dr. Howard Russell, founder of the Anti-Saloon League of America, addressing the conference today, said the United States will have national prohibition within five years and the constitutional amendment will be submitted to the people in one or two years. He declared that by the time "Billy" Sunday begins his campaign in Boston next year there will be a definite issue in Massachusetts between the prohibitionists and the liquor interests.

The Rev. Dr. Wilson, secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Temperance Society, said the Methodist preachers of the country are responsible for the temperance campaign now sweeping over the country. "And they will see it through," he added. Bishop Quayle presided.

Admit New Ministers

One of the chief events of the morning session was the formal admitting of the Rev. Constance M. Pamenzio of Amherst and the Rev. Wylie C. Hausam to full connection in the conference, they having completed the course of study and passed the other requirements. They were admitted by Bishop Quayle, who gave them a short sermon of advice, in which among other things he told them not to complain of being poorly paid, stating there were as many iver-paid clergymen as under-paid in the Methodist ministry.

He also said to them: "Don't be always in such a hurry that your coat tails are flying and you haven't time to speak to anybody, and don't, on the other hand, be always complaining to your wife how tired you are. Think rather of how tired she is (of you)."

The Rev. W. M. Gage of Chicopee Falls spoke in objection to the present system, whereby the various church committees appoint themselves in full without change in their makeup year after year. He said this prevented the entrance of much needed young blood and progressive ideas. He offered resolutions requiring at least one third of the membership of each committee to be dropped each year, and the vacancies filled by new men. The resolutions were passed after a somewhat lively discussion.

The following ministers were admitted to the conference "on trial," in accordance with the regular procdeure before being admitted to full standing: M. A. Clare, Thomas A. Johnston, Henry S. Leitzel, Wallace A. Haser, Arthur A. Pitman, Raymond A. Whithey, Horatio S. Putnam, H. A. Hausen and R. E. Muller.

The Rev. C. F. Rice of Winthrop street, Boston, read the report on "Church Federation." His report was optimistic, but he stated the work was chiefly handicapped by lack of funds.

The Methodist clergymen and their wives who are attending the New England conference thronged the People's Temple again today for the fourth day of the session.

Morning worship began at 8:30, followed by the regular conference session at 9 A. M.

The afternoon today is devoted to the anniversary meetings of the Women's Foreign Missionary and the Woman's Home Missionary societies, the former to begin at 2 P. M., with Miss Laura M. White as speaker, and Mrs. L. H. Wriston presiding. Miss White is a missionary from Nankin, China. The speaker at the Woman's Home Missionary meeting will be Mrs. May Leonard Woodruff and Mrs. O. H. Durrell and preside.

At 4 P. M. there will be a reception to ministers' wives and daughters, at which the hostesses will be Mrs. L. H. Murlin, Mrs. Charles Parkhurst, Mrs. E. C. E. Dorion, Mrs. H. L. Wriston, Mrs. E. J. Helms, Mrs. A. H. Nazarian, Mrs. C. C.

P. Hiller, Mrs. Kelley Jenness, Mrs. W. M. Gilbert and Mrs. Dillon Bronson.

The anniversary of the conference Temperance Society will be this evening at 7 o'clock, the Rev. G. E. Heath presiding. The speaker will be the Rev. Sam Small of Georgia, who will talk on "King Alcohol."

Following this, at 8 o'clock, will be the "Anniversary of the Freedman's Aid." The Rev. J. W. Stephen will preside, and the speaker will be the Rev. P. J. Maveety, D. D.

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NEGROES ASK WARRANT

In Endeavor to Prevent the Photoplay

Move Against Producer and Theatre Manager

Cases Arising from Saturday's Riot Heard

Black Men Again Denounce "Birth of Nation"

Negroes crowded almost to the point of suffocation the small poor-debtor room of the Municipal Court when Judge Thomas Dowd began the hearing this afternoon on the request, resulting from the production of "The Birth of a Nation," for a warrant for John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre, and David W. Griffith, producer of the film. All seats in the room were taken, every bit of standing space was utilized and more than one hundred persons were gathered in the corridor round the door leading to the courtroom. Judge Dowd immediately ordered the room cleared, and all present, except the witnesses and those occupying seats were obliged to leave.

The court warned the spectators to remain quiet while the testimony was being given and not to express approval or disapproval. John F. Cusick appeared for the theatrical people and J. Mott Hallowell and Butler R. Wilson for the negroes. Sergeant Anderson of the La Grange-street station appeared for the Government and presented the complaint to the court. A long hearing appeared inevitable.

Mr. Cusick told the Court that Mr. Griffith was in California and asked whether Mr. Schoeffel was needed for the purposes of the case. Mr. Hallowell thought not. It was agreed to substitute for Griffith the name of James J. McCarthy, who is supposed to be closely identified with the film.

The first witness called was Rev. Horace Bumstead of Brookline. He had witnessed the play. Questions asked resulted in an almost continuous wrangle on the part of the attorneys as to the admission of the witness's testimony. The Court upheld many of the objections, saying he was trying to get an unprejudiced and unbiased opinion. The judge ruled that the witness must describe what he saw and must not characterize the scenes. The witness had tried to describe his impression of one scene in which a negro is pursuing a white girl.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

outherner Finds Worth "Birth of a Nation"

o the Editor of The Boston Journal:
Recently it was my privilege to see e play "The Birth of a Nation." To e who has never lived in the South e real merit of such lessons as a play this character intends to teach is rgely lost.

But when one remembers that there e parishes and counties in which there e 100 negro men and their families to at of a single white man, one can adily see the reason for alertness on e part of Southern whites to maintain outhern white supremacy.

Then, one must not fail to remember at multitudes of the colored race were ttle better and not far removed from nimals in training and manner of inking after the war. The rape scene as essential to the lesson intended nd taught by the "Birth of a Nation" s any part there represented. The love f and tenacity with which the Southrn women cling to their inalienable ight, that of their virtue, could not therwise so well be represented. Nor ould the heroic uprising and indignaion of the white men at the demolition f all authority and legislation by the gnorant blacks.

Only those who have gone through the Reconstruction period of 1870 can rightly appreciate the truthfulness and worth of such lessons as this play rightly sets forth. A SOUTHERNER.

Clean-up Committee Says Children Are Safeguarded

To the Editor of The Boston Journal:

I have read with much interest your editorial in a recent issue entitled "Children as Scavengers."

Webster's Dictionary defines the word "Scavenger" as a person whose employment is to clean the streets of the city by scraping or sweeping and carrying off the filth.

I desire, on behalf of this committee, to state most emphatically that it is not our intention that the children should be employed in that capacity, and same is not advocated in any of the literature that we are sending out.

We are advocating that the boys and girls be asked to help in the matter of picking up loose papers in yards, streets and vacant lots, and in order that they may do this without any possibility of contamination, we are instructing all committees to supply the children with long sticks with barbed point on same, and burlap bags to put the papers into, so that it will not be necessary for the children to handle these papers with their fingers.

The Women's Municipal League of Boston believes that it is safe for the children to do this work when equipped in this way.

Our committee believes that it is well to enlist the help of the children, not only because they can render valuable service, but also for its educational effect; where the children take time to gather up loose papers, they are not so apt to throw things down.

The Bocton School Committee is cooperating with the Boston clean-up committee in an effort to arouse the children to the importance of doing their part in the clean city movement.
CLEAN-UP AND PAINT-UP COMMITTEE.

RECONSTRUCTION.

Good Feeling to the South Should Not Gloss Over the Facts of History.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter published in THE SUN of April 6 from Mr. Rossiter Johnson in reference to the play "The Birth of a Nation" and the novel "The Clansman," on which it is based, is not only admirable in temper, but greatly needed as a corrective of imperfect historical information. The Republican leaders of the '70s and the reconstruction acts have been so long held up to scorn, and misstatements concerning that legislation have been so continuously made that, as Mr. Johnson says, it is exceedingly desirable that the reason for the reconstruction laws should no longer be ignored or concealed.

We of the North have been so anxious that the Southern sensitiveness should be respected and an "era of good feeling" inaugurated that those who are familiar with the oppressive acts which led Congress to pass the legislation complained of have been silent, hoping that all this might be forgotten in the reign of justice and good will. Even the impression that the Republican Congress passed acts designed to hinder Southern progress and liberty might be allowed to remain, false and unjust as it is, but when by misstatements of fact and the distortion of history men create a greater prejudice against the colored element and cast upon it a burden of opprobrium it does not deserve, it is well for the truth to be told and the responsibility for the wrongs of the reconstruction period to be justly apportioned.

So many readers of "The Clansman" and spectators of "The Birth of a Nation" are uninformed concerning the truth of the case that assuming, as the author intends, that the period of negro legislation was without justification, they are roused to condemnation and to greater prejudice. They do not understand that Congress discovered that after the most remarkable liberality and kindness practised toward a conquered enemy, the race for whose emancipation many a soldier enlisted and suffered was being sorely oppressed and practically returned to slavery. It is by such perversion of history that a great wrong is done not only the negro but also the growing generation of students of our history.

Some day, and I trust soon, we shall have a history in which clearly and without partiality or bias the story of the reconstruction days and the wonderful forbearance on the part of the North shall be given. Meantime it behooves every just man and woman to resist these attempts for financial gain to hinder the progress and limit the development of the negro. S. J. FISHER.
PITTSBURG, Pa., April 10.

TROTTER IN APPEAL FOR THE MAYOR

Asks He Be Given Chance to Act on Film Play

While George Blackwell of Cambridge was in the midst of a bitter attack on Mayor Curley at yesterday's mass meeting of colored people at the People's Baptist Church, the speaker was interrupted by William Monroe Trotter, editor of the "Guardian" and leader of the anti-"Birth of a Nation" crusade, who insisted that Mayor Curley's name be unmentioned until he had been given time to act in his new capacity of censor.

The speaker, however, continued and declared that "even if Curley did stop the play, he would never get my vote."

OBSERVING "RACE DAY"

The meeting was held in commemoration of "Race Day," and it was devoted to an elaborate criticism by most of the speakers on the present South and the Democratic party.

Resolutions were passed and read by Mr. Trotter and unanimously indorsed by the assemblage. They are addressed to Mayor Curley, Police Commissioner O'Meara and Chief Justice Wilfred Bolster of the Municipal Court, comprising the board of censorship, and they read:

Text of Resolution

"We, the undersigned citizens of color and others, assembled in public mass meeting in the People's Baptist Church of Boston, May 23, 1915, under the auspices of the Massachusetts branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League, do hereby represent to your honorable Board of Censors of Theatre Plays in Boston, that the photo-play styled 'The Birth of a Nation,' by the methods of misrepresentation of American history, by racial slander and manifest evil design, seeks and tends to create, excite and augment prejudice against colored Americans, and thereby to deprive them of equal opportunity, of the pursuit of happiness, and to replace peace, harmony and friendliness amongst all citizens with discord, distrust and hatred. Hence our appeal for the removal of this play from Boston right speedily."

The meeting was presided over by John M. Burrill of Cambridge. The first speaker was Joseph C. Manning of Alabama, a white man, who spoke of the conditions now prevailing in the South. He was followed by George Blackwell of Cambridge, who violently assailed the Democratic party, blaming it for the poverty and misery of the negroes of the South today. He called upon the colored people to support the Republican leaders, and cited as a typical politician of the Democratic-anti negro type, Mayor Curley. In the midst of his philippic against the Mayor, Mr. Trotter, from the back of the church, called to the chairman who, after some moments, was able to give Mr. Trotter the floor.

Trotter's Protest

"It is not seemly that the name of Mayor Curley should be attacked here today," said Trotter, "since he is one of those to whom we look for the removal of 'The Birth of a Nation.' I think he should be given proper time in which to act, and I deplore language, at this time, such as that which has just been heard here."

Mr. Blackwell replied that in his remarks he had only been quoting somebody else, but this fact had not been evident to those in the assembly or to Mr. Trotter, hence his interruption. Moreover, Mr. Blackwell continued to declare the Mayor as unworthy, and wound up by saying:

"Whatever he may do with this play, whether he prohibits it or not, he will never again get my vote!"

William D. Brigham—characterized by Speaker Burrill in a complimentary way as a "white man with a black heart," was given an ovation as he mounted the platform. Joshua Crawford, who was one of the leaders of the fight against "The Birth of a Nation," was the next speaker. He said in part:

"The things that are going on in the South today are worse than any of those that happened in reconstruction times—far worse than the alleged history portrayed in that vile film. The robbery, extortion, exploitation, murder, burning and slaughtering of the colored people of the South is greater and on a larger scale than ever.

Until Women Get the Ballot

"We shall demand that this film get out of our city, our State and our country. But it only represents the systematic attempts to blacken the negro's character in order that these villainies may be continued with impunity.

"We have not only fought, bled and died for the white people, but our fathers and mothers gave the years of their lives to amass wealth and fortune for them, and, in return, we get 'The Birth of a Nation!'

"But we shall fight and continue to fight, till not only every man, but every woman (loud cheers) gets the ballot in fact as in theory, and until the Declaration of Independence is a living document, which it isn't today."

Negro Representation

To the Editor of The Record:—

Having attended many Legislative sessions in which debates were held upon the photo play, "Birth of a Nation," especially, and censorship of moving picture plays in general, I was led to consider the fact that negro representation was needed at the State House, in order to properly represent the colored race.

There were able and fair Legislators who advocated the amendments desired by the colored proponents of the censorship bill.

However, it does seem to be a fair conclusion that among the 20,000 members of the colored race in Boston, there might be a voter and citizen among them who could adequately and capably represent their interests. If there has been in the past, men of political aspirations who held such representative positions in the Legislature or the Common Council, who were not proper representatives, but were considered as politicians only, of unsavory record, I am sure there are, today, men of quite a different character who should consider the advisability for going into political life as a fit representative.

Surely, the time has now come for a new course to be pursued, for the colored race have now, during this recent agitation, a great opportunity to declare themselves and vindicate their character before the public.

Carrie G. Barr.
Boston, May 20.

THE TRUTH IS THE TRUTH.

There is no use in telling lies on this "Birth of a Nation." It is cunningly devised to hold up the abolitionists of New England and the people of Massachusetts, who favored the ballot for Colored people to censure and scorn. A mean-hearted Southerner seeks to revenge his element on the North, which "freed the Negro" and gave them the ballot. This play flouts abolition Boston, the real Boston, and all the reconstruction statesmen like Sumner and Boutwell and especially President Grant. It insults our state and then the idea is to palm it off on Boston, to insult her to her face, to get her Mayor to go back on Boston and then the Bourbon South laughs in its sleeve. Shall it be?

TAKE FILM ROW TO WILSON

Negroes Find President Never Approved of Movies Causing Protest.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—W. H. Lewis, a Boston negro and former Assistant Attorney General of the United States, and Bishop Alexander Walters

of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of New Jersey called at the White House to-day to inquire about reports that President Wilson had given his indorsement to a moving picture film depicting scenes in the reconstruction period in the South in a manner distasteful to negroes.

Secretary Tumulty showed them a letter to Representative Thatcher of Massachusetts, saying that, although the film was once shown at the White House as a courtesy to a former classmate of the President, the President was unaware of its character, and has at no time expressed any approbation of it.

NEW YORK CALL

16 April 1915

Colored People Not Satisfied With Film

Investigators for the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People are not satisfied with the revision that has been made in the film production, "The Birth of a Nation." This conclusion was expressed yesterday in arrangement for the enforcement of injunction proceedings against the production.

Hearing on the charges had been set for Thursday in the Jefferson Market Court, but it had been tacitly understood that if the recent promises of the film producers to Mayor Mitchel to remove the objectionable scenes in the film were fulfilled the injunction suit would be called off.

Attorneys were not ready to proceed with the case Thursday, but the complainants announced they intended to go through with the case. The hearing was set for April 13.

Offensive Prejudice

"The Birth of a Nation" is a moving picture based upon the novel of a notorious hater of the colored race. Its production in New York has provoked an outburst of censure from all friends of truth and justice. If the picture is suppressed, it will be on the grounds set forth by the New York World, that "no race is fairly judged by holding up as types its most degraded specimens. Every race has the right to be judged by its patient, toiling, useful average and by its best."

WILSON DENIES HE O.K.D FILM.

"Birth of a Nation" Shown at White House, but Not Approved.

WASHINGTON, April 30.—A statement issued at the White House to-day indicates that President Wilson is chafing under the criticism that is aimed at him in some parts of the country because he permitted the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation," which is based on Thomas Dixon's "Clansman," to be presented at the White House. Secretary Tumulty sent the following letter to Representative Thatcher of Massachusetts, which was made public here:

"Replying to your letters and enclosures I beg to say that it is true that the 'Birth of a Nation' was produced before the President and the family at the White House, but the President was entirely unaware of the character of the play before it was presented and has at no time expressed his approbation of it. Its exhibition at the White House was courtesy extended to an old acquaintance."

Tremont—The Birth of a Nation

A filmed spectacle of unusual magnitude and scope. The earlier reels unroll scenes and incidents from the Civil War—Sherman's march to the sea, the battle of Petersburg, Lee's surrender and the assassination of Lincoln—on a scale of numbers, diversity and vividness new to motion pictures in America. Then follows a pictorial chronicle of conditions in the South during the days of Reconstruction, the carpet-baggers and Ku-Klux Clan ranging from intimate domestic life to turbulent episode. Finally comes an apotheosis of the United States. Into all this is woven sentimental adventure between a soldier of the North and a woman of the South. Music accompanies the whole spectacle.

June 1915

COLORED PASTORS AS CRITICS

CHICAGO, June 1.—Mayor Thompson to-day planned to solve the much-mooted question of whether Chicagoans should see the picture drama based on "The Clansman," "The Birth of a Nation." He asked thirty or forty colored ministers to say whether it will or will not arouse race hatred.

It is up to the negro ministers, said the Mayor, whether whites and blacks shall see the drama.

DETROIT FIGHTS "BIRTH OF A NATION."

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 31.—The second week of the fight against the passage of an ordinance to prohibit "The Birth of a Nation" and kindred plays has developed a strong and patriotic sentiment in favor of the ordinance. The local press is doing its part in a faithful and efficient manner and the indications point to a victory for the law.

$4,000,000 "MOVIES" MAY CAUSE HOT FIGHT

Aitken and Griffith Announce They Will Have Great Picture House Chain.

Harry E. Aitken and D. W. Griffith, producers under the name of the Epoch Producing Company of "The Birth of a Nation," announced last night that they are organizing a company, to be incorporated at $4,000,000, to put a chain of motion picture houses across the continent, with a central theatre on Broadway. Seat prices will range from $2 down.

With the news of this declaration of war against theatres presenting plays came tidings that the Shuberts have leased the Metropolitan Opera House in Philadelphia, and intend to have a string of pretentious "movie" houses in New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Chicago next year. A Broadway theatre, the Boston Opera House, the Metropolitan in Philadelphia and probably the Auditorium in Chicago will be used. Lee Shubert said a high class programme, such as was presented recently at the Hippodrome, would be in effect at these houses, with music and spectacles in addition to feature pictures.

In the announcement from Aitken's office it was said that "a new group of powerful forces in Wall Street is effecting a combination of motion picture productions. This, and the fact that the new company says it will have a Broadway house, was considered significant, in view of the fact that Crawford Livingston and Felix Kahn, brokers, have control of the Rialto Theatre, which will be opened as a high class "movie" house in the fall on the site of Hamerstein's Victoria.

The leading figures in the combination, it is said, are Aitken, President of several film companies; Griffith, Thoms H. Ince, Mack Sennett, Director of the Keystone comedies; C. O. Baumann and Charles Kessel of the New York Motion Picture Corporation and the Western Import Company of London.

Well known authors and illustrators will supply the material for the pictures, it is announced, and prominent stars from the motion picture and "legitimate" fields have been signed.

NEW FILM SHOWS NEGRO'S PROGRESS

Today is the second Saturday of "The Birth of a Nation" engagement at the Tremont Theatre. The first Saturday was a success of curiosity, for the play had been so widely discussed that people wanted to know what it was all about. Since a week ago, between 20,000 and 25,000 people have seen this spectacle and have spread the word of its extraordinary power, charm and artistic merit. The management has been obliged to put seats on sale four weeks in advance. Society has made its presence felt, and a long line of automobiles marks the opening and the end of each show.

Director Griffith is now said to be working on his new plan of supplementing the story with a screen record showing the progress of the negro race since reconstruction. This falls naturally into the sequence of historical events, beginning in the play with the introduction of slavery into this country and continuing with the conflicts of the civil war and the troubles between the Southern whites and the carpetbaggers and negroes after the war.

The chief thing is the love stories, for which, after all, the history is the setting or background. The characters of Ben and Elsie, of Phil and Margaret and of little Flora twine around the spectators' hearts and evoke much sympathy. Daily matinees are being given during this engagement.

"The Birth of a Nation" patrons yesterday welcomed the new film, incorporated by order of David W. Griffith, showing the progress of the negro race in this country. Individual examples of negro progress are exhibited in the names of Frederick Douglass, in statesmanship; Booker T. Washington, in education; W. E. B. DuBois, in oratory and philosophy; Henry O. Tanner, in art, and Paul Lawrence Dunbar, in poetry.

This record, as flashed on the screen, was heartily applauded at both performances yesterday. It is now a permanent part of the picture.

HE JABS THE PICTURES.

Following is Dr. Booker T. Washington's telegram to Dr. S. E. Courtney, on the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation:"

Tuskegee, Ala., 11:58 A. M., April 23, 1915.

Dr. S. E. Courtney, 98 West Springfield St., Boston, Mass.:

Have just returned from educational campaign through Louisiana. Did not know "Birth of a Nation" being played in Boston until very recently. From all I can hear it is vicious and harmful play. If it can not be stopped it ought to be modified or changed materially. Best thing would be to stop it as it can result in nothing but stirring up race prejudice. Do not believe play will be permitted in its present form in any of our southern cities. Glad to hear people in Boston are against play and hope their efforts to stop it will be successful. Particularly unfortunate to have this play at present time when we were entering upon era of good racial feeling throughout country such as we have not experienced lately.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

The many friends of Dr. Booker T. Washington will be pleased to learn that he has announced himself so decidedly against the thing which promises so much harm. Other races which have been over characterized on the stage have objected, the result being modified and inoffensive impersonations. Our race has not seen fit to protest strongly against over-characterization, but it views with alarm serious pictures which can only have one result regardless of the intent of the producers. The race is a unit in opposition to this production, and which opposition is necessary if Negro manhood is to come up and be maintained.

LEGISLATORS ATTEND PLAY

Tremont Theatre Crowded for Special Performance of "The Birth of a Nation"—State Business at a Standstill

Members of the Legislature and their friends filled almost the entire orchestra and first balcony of the Tremont Theatre this morning to witness the special performance of "The Birth of a Nation" in response to an invitation from the management. The members were first shown the film as it is being shown to the public today, following which the parts, which have been cut out at the request of the city authorities and municipal court, were thrown upon the screen.

The legislators applauded when the Ku Klux Clan riders were shown rushing to the rescue of Elsie Stoneman, as she is about to be forced into marriage with the mulatto, Silas Lynch. Handclapping also occurred in a few other cases, but not to any extent.

Neither Speaker Cox of the House, President Coolidge of the Senate nor Governor Walsh was present.

Mr. Cox called the House to order promptly at one o'clock. At that time, the regular hour for beginning the Monday session, about fifteen of the 240 members were in their seats. The House went through the calendar without debate, and then started for a second time. After several matters had been passed, Mr. Sherburne of Brookline moved that the sergeant-at-arms be instructed to procure a quorum, and that a recess be taken meantime. The recess lasted from 1.15 until 1.45, when a sufficient number of members had returned from the theatre to begin consideration of the State business.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

NOT "CARPET BAGGERS" BUT SOUTHERN WHITE LEADERS

Whom Colored Freedmen Followed in Reconstruction Days, Says Major Lynch—Never Was a Southern State Taken Over by "Newly-Enfranchised Blacks Controlled by Northern Carpet-Baggers," No Background of Truth for a Single Scene in "Birth of a Nation" Play—Doing Colored Incomparable Harm.

Chicago, May 27.—(Editor of The Tribune.)—Speaking of the photoplay called "The Birth of a Nation," you say: "It is in all essential episodes grounded on historical fact, representing the struggles in that terrible time in the South when the whites, back from war, saw their government taken over by the newly enfranchised blacks controlled by the Northern carpet-baggers.

"What happened with the negro ascendant and how the white re-established his supremacy is shown with obvious natural sympathy for the South, and no doubt with such heightening of effect as dramatic art has a right to employ. It presents what the South says and the North of our day, at least, is inclined to believe to be truth."

Never Did Blacks and Carpet-Baggers Control a Southern State.

Exactly the reverse of this is true, for theer never was a time when any one of the state governments of the South was taken over by the newly enfranchised blacks controlled by the Northern carpet-baggers.

That some mistakes were made during the progress of reconstruction will not be denied. How could it be otherwise? The war had just come to an end. Sectional animosity was bitter and intense The Republican party was looked upon as the enemy of the South. No white man could identify himself with the Republican party at that time in any one of the Southern states without running the risk of being socially ostracised and publicly characterized as an enemy to his section, his state, and his race.

Leaders of Freedmen Were Southern White Men, Not Carpet-Baggers.

Notwithstanding these things, not less than 25 per cent. of the white men of that section—men who were to the manner born, many of them ex-Confederate soldiers, identified themselves with and became leaders of the Republican party. These, in the main, were the men that the newly enfranchised blacks selected as their leaders and whose leadership they loyally and faithfully followed.

Never Either Negro or Carpet-Bagger Domination.

I do not hesitate to assert that the reconstructed state governments at the South were the best governments those states ever had before or have ever had since. There never was a time when there was actual physical "Negro domination," or even carpet-bag domination, in any one of the reconstructed states.

Not a Single Actual Fact in "The Birth of a Nation" Play.

The play to which you refer, instead of being "grounded on historical misrepresentation, without having a single actual fact as the basis of its existence. It is fiction pure and simple, painted from a diseased and prejudiced imagination, with a false and deceptive background as a basis upon wich to stand.

Scenes Pure Fabrications and Intended to Engender Race Hatred.

Such a play could not be otherwise than mischevous in its inception and dangerous in its results, even if the scenes depicted were a truthful reproduction of actual occurrences. But when it is or ought to be a well known fact that the alleged scenes are pure fabrications with not a single background of truth to support them, their production can hardly be less criminal. **In the main they are false, slanderous, and malicious. They are calculated and intended to engender and intensify race prejudice and race hatred.** In the interest of peace, order, truth, justice, and morality they should be suppressed. No good can come but much harm may result from them. It is, therefore, the duty of the authorities to suppress them, just as they would suppress any other nuisance that is calculated to incite crime and general disorder in the community.

JOHN R. LYNCH,
Author of "The Facts of Reconstruction."

SWATTING THE THOMAS DIXON PRODUCTIONS.

SPOKANE, Wash.—"The hearts of the Negroes as a race are now beginning to beat as one." This statement could not be better proven than has been done by the concertedness of our people of the Atlantic and Pacific shores in their death-dealing swats given to Thomas Dixon's opprobious production, "The Nigger." Some weeks ago this play showed up at Portland. Our newspapers, serving the Negro as they should, had already told the colored people there of the hidden sting in it and they gave it a very black eye there. At Tacoma and Seattle it was treated much worse. In the meantime the Colored Business Men's League of Spokane got busy, lined up everything and awaited its coming. Yesterday it made its appearance at one of the best playhouses of the city. A committee from that organization awaited upon the mayor of the city in protest against it. They easily won the mayor over. He handed them a copy of rulings placed upon the "Nigger" by the National Board of Censors saying, "I shall issue orders that only be allowed to be shown here under the restrictions and provisions therein mentioned." As the committee came out they beheld a great sign-covered wagon with "Nigger" printed in bold display. In a few moments they were before the manager of the Liberty theatre. They told him of the dislike we have to the use of this word, of the feeling it would engender in the hearts of the school children and of the possible friction it could cause, etc., and he forthwith promised them that it should be immediately called off the streets, and such was done.

What is more indicative that we as a race are realizing that there are points in common to us all and are safeguarding the same everywhere we may be? What shows more unmistakable that the Negro press is truly performing the function for which it is intended? What helpfulness of its many duties could the press have rendered the race than to put it to battle against the enemy and buoy it on by reporting constantly the successes along the firing line? The day is not far off when the Negro press will be to him what the white's are to them.

Boston Record

The "Birth of a Nation"

To the Editor of The Record:

The decision of the Commission on the "Movies," in regard to the "Birth of a Nation" picture show was I think unjust, but as it seems to be final, I hope the colored population will use no force to make their protest more emphatic.

It appears to me the Commission is not justified in perpetuating this race prejudice.

If the Jews as a race should protest against the Jewish slang used in vaudeville performances I think they should be heard and the performance stopped; but as they do not protest there is no need of any interference.

If the Irish as a people should protest against the comic portrayal of a typical Irishman in vaudeville, I think it should be stopped; but they make no protest, hence no need of interference. But the colored population do protest against a performance or a picture show prejudicial to their race, and as an excitant and growing hatred in the race problem it should not be continued, but stopped before it gets beyond control.

The "Merchant of Venice," I think the most interesting and the most skilful in its make-up of all of Shakespeare's plays. I admire its performance under skilful performers, but it is decidedly prejudicial as a take-off of the Jew, although I don't think it is a just representation of the Jews as a class. They are, in my opinion, as honorable a people as any we have among us, but if they protested against it as prejudicial to their race, eliminate it by all means.

Let us have no race prejudice endangering the harmony and peace of our Republic.

I don't think Mayor Curley is wise in deciding in any way keeping up this race prejudice when it could be so easily eliminated.

The better way for the colored population to operate is to combine together in their voting precincts and vote only for such candidates as will use their efforts in purging from our midst any and all race prejudice threatening the peace here and everywhere in our land.

L. S. Richards.
Marshfield Hills, June 7.

THOMAS DIXON, JR.

Of Virginia—The Devil's Masterpiece—Avowed apostle of hate to Colored Americans, seeking now to strike down Colored race in Northern sentiment—Will succeed if Mayor permits "Birth of a Nation"—Hates this state and its great abolition leaders and sentiment.—Will he succeed in insulting us to our faces as he inwardly gloats in derision?

"BIRTH OF NATION" TO BE SHOWN

Mayor Refuses to Stop Photo Play

After offering to use his influence for the elimination of a scene in the photo play "The Birth of a Nation," which is to be produced at the Tremont Theatre, Mayor Curley yesterday brought the hearing on the petition of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People that the production be disallowed, to an abrupt close, with the declaration that he would not interfere with the production.

"I shall allow the play to proceed and the municipal censor and a representative of the police commissioner may pass upon its merits," said the Mayor. "The hearing is adjourned." He then abruptly left the room.

HISS NAME OF WILSON

A feature of the hearing was the wave of hissing that swept through the crowd of more than two hundred people, mostly colored, as the name of President Wilson was mentioned. The incident occurred as John F. Cusick, counsel for the theatre, told the play's having been seen and approved by the President and his cabinet at the White House.

Among those who appeared in favor of the petition were: Moorfield Storey, president of the association; Dr. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity Church; Joseph P. Loud, a Boston architect; Dr. Francis Rowley, the Rev. M. W. Thornton of the Equal Rights League; B. R. Wilson, and Munro Trotter.

Butler Wilson, counsel for the association, was the first speaker. After declaring that the play tends to excite hatred for the colored people and that "the whole play is suggestive of sensual excesses and an offence against common decency," he read letters from Jane Addams, Dr. Stephen A. Wise and other prominent sociologists, all of whom condemned the play. He then introduced Miss Mary White Ovington.

Scores Gowns of Women

She declared that the play was offensive to common decency, especially denouncing the "sensual and bestial expressions upon the faces of the negro villians in the play and the decollete gowns of the women." The Mayor asked the witness if it were not true that the women of high society wear very low-necked dresses in fashionable hotels. Miss Ovington said that it is true, but that they don't wear the bestial expressions on their faces that are seen in the play.

Witness said that the play shows only the depraved types of the negro race, and is therefore liable to incite race hatred. The Mayor showed some of his old-time form as a Shaksperian scholar by asking the witness if she thought that the murders of Macbeth incite feeling against the white race. He also said that he would not be justified in preventing the production of the "Merchant of Venice" because of the look on Shylock's face.

"So far," said he, "no one has shown me the grounds upon which I can stand under the statutes to prevent the play. What your imaginations tell you is not sufficient. You imagine that a negro wishes to attack a white girl because he chases her through a wood until she hurls herself from a cliff. This is not sufficient grounds for me to disallow the production of the play." He then gave instances of plays that he had closed up, showing the grounds upon which he could act.

Moorfield Storey, the next speaker for

the petitioners, said: "The play is founded upon the book, 'The Clansman,' and is advertised as such. It is a political attempt to discredit the negro race. It is bestial, low, and will incite race hatred. You should object to it as you would object if priests were slandered thus. It is setting race against race." The Mayor again recited instances from the plays of Shakespeare in which were depicted abuses in the Episcopal Church and said that he had never heard that that church objected to their production.

Mr. Storey said that if the play goes through the country the white people who see it will want to kill every colored man in the United States. He said, in answer to a question put by the Mayor, that he had never seen the play. "According to you," said Mayor Curley, "the production of almost every comedy on the stage should be prohibited because of the caracturing of the Irish, the Dutch, the Germans and the Jews."

"There is no effort to discredit these races in these comedies," replied Mr. Storey. The effect of this play is to discredit the colored race." The Mayor at this point started to say something and was interrupted by Mr. Storey. He asked Mr. Storey's permission to speak. "Go ahead if you represent the other side," was the reply. "I don't represent any side," replied the Mayor.

Dr. Alexander Mann, the next speaker, said that he had not seen the play, but that he had heard that it was pernicious in its effect. He urged the Mayor not to stick too closely to the letter of the law in disallowing the production.

Joseph P. Loud said that he had seen the play and that the whites had been made to appear as perfect men; and that the negroes had been made to appear as beasts. He said that the scene in which a negro chases a white girl to a hill until she throws herself over a precipice to escape from him was horrible." He commented upon the lack of attire worn by some of the female characters in the play. The Mayor said that the only thing of an objectionable nature that had been presented at the hearing so far was the chase of the white girl by the negro. He offered at this point, that that scene be struck out of the production. He then read a letter from the Rev. Thomas E. Gregory endorsing the play.

Munroe Trotter was the next speaker. He delivered an impassioned appeal to the Mayor to prevent the play's being produced.

Mr. Cusick, counsel for the theatre, said that the play is based only upon historical fact, and that there is no attempt made to ridicule the colored race. He said that the National Board of Censors had endorsed the play, and that there are as many white villains in the play as there are black. He said that President Wilson and his Cabinet had seen and endorsed the play. It was at this point that the hissing occurred. He then introduced David W. Griffith, the author.

Mr. Griffith defended the right of the movies to depict history, and said that the play did just that.

MAKES STIRRING PLEA ON BEHALF OF THE NEGRO

Atty. Lewis Declares at Film Hearing That Race Asks Only Justice.

The legislative committee on the judiciary closed its hearings on the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," yesterday afternoon. All that remains now is the framing of a bill to meet the situation and its presentation to the Legislature.

It was agreed even before the hearing closed that the Sullivan bill relative to racial and religious productions was "impossible." Butler R. Wilson, W. H. Lewis and Frank B. Sanborn all admitted that. The Cogan bill, presented for the theatrical people, which makes the mayor the chief censor, with an appeal to the courts, is regarded as more feasible, but the objectors to the film are not satisfied with that by any means.

The afternoon was given over to the hearing of final arguments of the objectors and of opposing counsel.

The dramatic honors of the day went to W. H. Lewis, speaking against the play.

"I am not a problem, my people are not a problem," he said, "except when men attempt to deprive us of our rights. We do not ask favors, we only ask for justice in this matter.

"This is a case of property rights againsa human rights." "Property rights must be used in such a way that it does no injury to our neighbors." He read a telegram from Booker T. Washington expressing the hope that Boston would not stand for the photo-play.

Pleads for His People.

"They say that no offence is meant by this film," he continued. "They accuse me of being a rapist, they depict my brothers as being hanged without a trial, they attempt to take away the ballot from us, and then add that no offence is meant.

"They have accused the proponents of playing politics. Twenty years ago when we came to Gov. Russell for the equal rights legislation, he stood by us and now Gov. Walsh takes a similar stand. He has proved himself worthy of his office. Do you think 'Sam' McCall, who has stood with us in Congress for 20 years, is playing politics? How about Grafton Cushing, who was born over here on what is called 'nigger hill'? He was brought up with us and has always stood straight. As for your speaker, I will leave it to your own judgment."

Butler Wilson for the proponents, said they opposed the Sullivan bill, and objected to the Coggan bill because it would not take effect until Aug. 1. They preferred legislation that would permit either the chief of the district police or the mayor of Boston to stop a production that was obscene, immoral, "sexually or otherwise," hostile to the welfare of the general public or tending to injure the morals of the community.

Representatives of labor unions had the floor directly in advance of Messrs. Lewis and Butler. They raised the argument that the shutting off of plays threw them out of work and that there was no reason why they should be made the persons to suffer.

Criticises Governor.

Gov. Walsh was sharply criticised as being responsible for much of the agitation against the photoplay by John F. Cusick, counsel for the company producing the film, at the opening of the hearing.

Atty. Cusick gave his version of the history of the protest against the film since it has come to Boston. He told how, after disturbances in front of the theatre where the film is being shown one Saturday night, a great many opponents of the play went to the State House the following Monday, Patriots' day, to protest to Gov. Walsh against the film.

"Gov. Walsh," continued Cusick slowly, "without seeing this play or talking with any representative of this play, told these people that if there was not law enough to stop the play he would see that a law was placed on the statute books to do so.

"There, sir, Mr. Gov. Walsh, you have caused a whole lot of this agitation and are much to blame for such a short-sighted policy."

Sawyer Offers New Bill.

Representative Sawyer of Ware, who said he had seen "The Birth of a Nation" and considered it "unfair and unjust to the Negro," was the first speaker at the hearing, which technically was for the benefit of the defenders of the play. Representative Sawyer was granted permission to appear, in order that he might file with the committee a bill bearing on the situation.

The Sawyer bill, briefly described, provides that on petition of 200 citizens in Boston that a play is unfair to their race, the mayor or his agent shall inspect the play and conduct a public hearing on it within 24 hours and render a decision within 48 hours.

J. Albert Brackett, counsel for the theatrical managers of Boston, said he believed the time was near when it would be necessary to rest the censorship of motion pictures with some public board of experience and possessing public confidence. He said, however, that in view of the lateness of the legislative session, it would be risky to pass any hurried legislation, and suggested that the whole matter go over until next year so that then there might be a thorough overhauling of the amusement laws.

Atty. Brackett said he believed the present law was effective, as far as the theatres were concerned. He added, however, he was not opposed to placing sole censorship of plays in the hands of the mayor, provided the theatres were given the right of court appeal, as proposed in a bill filed with the committee Monday by M. Sumner Coggan, counsel for John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre.

Mr. Brackett said the theatrical interests have $35,000,000 invested in Boston. In the past eight years, he said, only five plays have been banned by the mayor, and these were "cheerfully" withdrawn by the managers.

Immoral Plays Allowed.

"But Boston has allowed the most immoral plays to be given here without any comment at all," said Atty. Brackett later. 'Camille' is a very immoral play, but I have never heard any protest on that. 'La Tosca' is another."

Atty. John F. Cusick, in opening, said: "What I have got to say is without malice to anybody. But a situation has arisen which must be stated with positive directness. You've got enough law, but you haven't got the facts to sustain the law. You have plenty of law, but about every one is steering away from the facts. If the opponents of this play had enough facts there is law enough to close the play."

Atty. Cusick then went to say the play either had been produced or was being produced without trouble in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago and New York. He declared the national board of censorship had "passed" the play in January of this year by a vote which, he understood, was something like 18 to 6. The majority, in its report, declared "excellent" the educational, artistic and entertainment value" of the production, and had also stated: "This should prove a great step forward in motion picture development." The minority made no report.

Cusick then criticised Gov. Walsh, Lieut.-Gov. Cushing, Samuel W. McCall and Moorfield Storey for protesting against the play without seeing it. Cusick added the name of Secretary Frank Hammond of the executive committee of the Boston Bar Association to this list, but was immediately corrected by Mr. Hammond, who stated he had seen the play before expressing an opinion on it. Cusick apologized, and then went on to give a list of names of prominent public men, writers and critics who had indorsed the play.

Opposes Sullivan Bill.

The Sullivan bill, Mr. Cusick declared, was unfit for Massachusetts legislation. He said it would stop all theatrical productions of any color or benefit. The Hallowell bill, he declared would cause confusion, as it gave either the mayor or the police commissioner the right to suppress a play. The Coggan bill, he said, was the best one presented, as it gave the producer the right to appeal to a justice of the superior or supreme court from an adverse decision of the mayor and would give Massachusetts a better system of censorship.

Frank B. Sanborn, "The Sage of Concord," favored a return to the old system whereby the mayor licensed each production. He said that Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," was "unable to tell the truth" about civil war history.

Ignatius McNulty, John J. Barry and William C. Franke, representing several labor unions affected, opposed the legislation on the ground that many men would be thrown out of work. Mr. McNulty said it would be a shame to keep historical films from being shown, and said the colored people have not half the grievances on account of theatrical productions that red-haired people have.

Solons Invited to View Film.

The Governor and Legislature have been invited to witness the play at a special performance on Monday next.

Lieut.-Gov. Cushing, who is president of the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, issued a statement yesterday in which he said there is no adequate supervision of motion pictures, and that the national board of censorship only has power of recommendation. He said committees aggregating more than 300 men and women, representatives of state and city organizations, had investigated 1261 different films and photo-plays shown to children in 16 representative cities during a period of 12 weeks, and that they had reported more than 18 per cent. were objectionable.

The agitation which is the result of the production of "The Birth of a Nation," the statement says, simply emphasizes this necessity.

"The Birth of a Nation."

Editor of The Globe, Sir—Will you be magnanimous enough to allow me a few words upon your editorial in The Globe of the 6th inst., entitled "Capitalizing Race Hatred"?

You set out to prove that white men in the "Birth of a Nation" are slandering the Negroes. May it not be just possible that you, in your editorial, are slandering white men?

It strikes me, sir, that not a one of the charges you bring against the great photo-play is true.

It is not trying to "relight the fire of sectionalism." To claim that such is the case is a monstrous perversion of the truth. On the contrary, the play, so far as the north and south are concerned, is beautifully fraternal and ends with a complete and glorious welding together of the once discordant sections.

It is not in any way or to any extent an "insult to Lincoln." On the other hand, the compliment given the martyr president by the play is as hearty as it is magnificent. Instead of trying to belittle the great president, it makes him loom in patience, love, and all moral grandeur as a giant among Lilliputians.

The play does not represent the members of the Negro race as "foul fiends." It only represents some of them as such. There are as many good Negroes in the play as there are bad ones, and the heartiest applause among the auditors is elicited by the faithfulness and rock-ribbed devotion of members of the African race.

After saying that the "very name of 'The Birth of a Nation' is an insult to Washington," you make the statement that "this nation of ours was not born between 1861 and 1865, and no one will profit by trying to pervert history."

But, my dear sir, the fact remains that this nation was, in the only high and true sense, born between 1861 and 1865. Before 1861-65 the nation existed but in name, the "Union" being merely a paper Union, and the constitution not worth the parchment upon which it was written; but by the agony and blood of the war, by the elimination of the great disturbing element, slavery, and by the intercommunication of north and south and their reunion upon the higher level the real nation was born.

And, my dear sir, it is the story of how this was done that the great photo-play is trying to tell. And as such it is the grandest and most effective educator that this country has ever seen.

Dealing with the "ten years of hell," known as reconstruction, it shows how complete was the failure of the unprincipled politicians of the Thaddeus Stevens stamp to make the white people of the south the slaves of their former slaves, and to blot out for all time Anglo-Saxon civilization in the southland. And is it a crime to do that?

The "Birth of a Nation" is as true to history as the old Crusader's heart was to the Master's Sepulchre. And can you change history?

REV. THOMAS B. GREGORY.

Brooklyn, April 7.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

ANTI-NEGRO FILM NOT INDORSED BY WILSON

NO APPROBATION BY PRESIDENT OF "BIRTH OF A NATION."

How Cinema Production Was Shown at White House — Negroes See Tumulty and Are Told Chief Executive Was Unaware of Character of the Production—Words from President's History Used with Film Production at Theatre in Boston.

[Special Dispatch to The Evening Post.]

WASHINGTON, April 30.—Official denial that the President ever has endorsed "The Birth of a Nation," a photo-play based on the "Clansman" of Thomas Dixon, was issued from the White House to-day by the Secretary to the President, Joseph P. Tumulty, in the form of a letter addressed by Mr. Tumulty to Representative Thacher, of Massachusetts. Mr Tumulty's letter in full was as follows:

"Replying to your recent letter and enclosures, I beg to say that it is true that "The Birth of a Nation" was produced before the President and his family at the White House, but the President was entirely unaware of the character of the play before it was presented and has at no time expressed his approbation of it. Its exhibition at the White House was a courtesy extended to an old acquaintance."

Publicity was given the letter to-day following a call by W. H. Lewis, a lawyer of Boston, the only negro who has ever held the office of Assistant Attorney General of the United States, and Bishop A. Walters, of New Jersey, of the A. M. E. Church Zion, a political supporter of President Wilson in the last campaign.

Mr. Lewis and Bishop Walters called the attention of Mr. Tumulty to a letter sent recently to the Mayor of Boston by protestants against the play, in which it stated that "The Birth of a Nation" has been "interpreted as political and social propaganda carefully planned to prepare the minds for the reduction of the negro to a state in which full rights of citizenship are denied."

PRESIDENT'S WORD USED.

It was also stated that a spokesman before the Massachusetts Legislature had referred to the play "as an educational and historical document." The same spokesman is alleged to have read excerpts from President Wilson's history of the United States as thrown upon the screen in a Boston theatre which quoted the President as writing that "The Ku Klux Klan was organized to protect the Southern country from some of the ugliest hazards since the time of the Revolution" and "protect their people from indignities." The use of these excerpts was said in the letter to imply an endorsement by the President of the play. And it was stated that "they are placed amid scenes inciting to the bitterest race hatred. To the unthinking they place the President of the United States in the position of approving of mob violence of sympathizing with efforts to deprive negro citizens of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution."

In conclusion, the letter stated "no civilized nation allows its Chief Magistrate to represent it in public places as inciting to hatred against any body of citizens. It is obviously impossible for the President to be aware of the use that may be used of his published words, or the interpretation put upon them in any particular community, the dignity of his high office does not permit him to explain words written while a private citizen and now used in places of public entertainment."

DIXON AND WILSON CLASSMATES.

The letter concluded by asking the Mayor of Boston to prohibit the use of the name of the President till such time as authority shall be received from Washington for the use of his name in such play in Boston.

The photo-play not only in Boston and New York, but elsewhere incited considerable trouble of a racial nature, and it was because of this fact that protests were made against its production.

Regarding the circumstances of the private exhibition of the photo-play at the White House, it was stated here today that Mr. Dixon, author of the "Clansman" and the President were former classmates at Johns Hopkins University and that Mr. Dixon requested that the play be shown at the White House and was present on the occasion. The nature of the photo-play was not known to the President in advance, and no approval of it ever was given.

BIRTH OF NATION BARRED BY MAYOR IN CEDAR RAPIDS

Mrs. Fred H. Gresham, Club Worker and Home Maker Shows Mayor That Such Pictures as "The Clansman" and "Nigger" Breed Race Prejudice.

REQUEST GRANTED MAY 21

People of Des Moines Give Praise to the President of Woman's Clubs for Actively Defending the Race—Was Assisted by Three Ministers.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

Des Moines, Iowa, June 14.—Mrs. Fred H. Gresham is the lone woman who is responsible for "The Birth of a Nation," "The Clansman" and "The Nigger" being barred from this city. In order to have something tangible to present to the mayor she attended the show, but could get only four others to see it. A committee was called, resolutions drawn at a mass meeting, and Mrs. Gresham and Rev Cato and other ministers called on Mayor Roth and presented arguments against the showing of the above pictures. The mayor saw their plea was just and right and he issued an order prohibiting them being shown. He said: "There shall be no picture shown in this city as long as I am mayor that will in any way cause race prejudice or bad feeling between the races." The mayor said further that he was acquainted with the fact that the lower house of the Illinois general assembly had passed a bill introduced by R. R. Jackson which prohibited the exhibition of such pictures, and said while there was no law in Iowa to cover cases of this kind, they would come under police regulation.

Mrs. Fred H. Gresham is president of the Women's Club of Cedar Rapids. She is the wife of Mr. Fred H. Gresham, Defender correspondent of that city. Only a few days ago she received praise from the citizens of that city for the kind and motherly manner in which she cared for little Jessie Purcell, who was run over by a train. Now she is being praised for the work done in the interest of the race. During the session of the state federation she was appointed chairman of the board of health and hygiene, and is president of the Josephine Silone Yates Club. She was formerly Miss Elnora R. Helms.

Mrs. Gresham was not afraid to go to the mayor. She had the interest of the race at heart. Others were afraid to go because some "finicky" woman started a report that "white folks" would make their husbands lose their jobs. Such womanhood! It is just as important today to fight for our rights as it was for our fathers in the 60's. Such women should be ashamed to be called women—to have such little respect for womanhood and their race.

To such noble women as Mrs. Gresham the people everywhere, and The Chicago Defender, have the highest respect.

Mrs. Fred H. Gresham.
PHILADELPHIA PRESS

5 September

"BIRTH OF NATION" EXCITES APPLAUSE

No Disorderly Scenes Attend Presentation of Much-Heralded Movie Play.

Grim tragedy and romance combine to make "The Birth of a Nation," which had its initial opening here last night, at the Forrest, before a packed house, one of the most remarkable photoplays ever produced. The production attracted the largest crowd here with which it has been favored on the entire circuit.

When D. W. Griffith staged this stupendous production, he combined in it all of the realities, horrible though they may have seemed, of the days of the carpet-bagger in the South, after the assassination of President Lincoln. But into these is blended a beautiful romance that makes the picture one that reaches the heart of the most skeptical critic.

The great spectacle is founded upon Thomas Dixon's now famous novel, "The Clansman," but the much talked-of racial prejudice was conspicuous by its absence. There is nothing in "The Birth of a Nation" that could even tend to excite any racial prejudice and it was received by the audience with outbursts of patriotic applause rather than jeers and cheers combined as had been predicted by those opposed to the photo-play.

Scenes Are Wonderful.

Many of the scenes that are thrown upon the screen are little less than wonderful. Some of them are historically accurate, including the signing of the Proclamation of Emancipation, Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, the assassination of the martyred President and the formation of the Ku Klux Klan.

A cast of 18,000 persons and 3000 horses was required in the production of the play. It is said to have cost $500,000 and taken eight months to produce.

The scene begins with events leading up to the Civil War and into this come prominently the lives of four persons, two of Northern birth and two of Southern. A Southern gentleman falls in love with the picture of the sister of his Northern college chum, who is the son of the leading radical politician of Congress. On the other hand, the Northern boy is attracted by the charms of his Southern friend's sister.

War Divides Sweethearts.

But between these hearts steps a war that divides them into two factions. As the war ends the Northern Congressman, upon the death of President Lincoln, holds the power with which he sends the carpet-bagger into the South for political reasons. It is not the colored man who is held accountable for his acts during that reign of terror, but the white scalawags who take advantage of the colored man's ignorance to incite him to riots and violence. The final expulsion of the carpet-bagger by the Ku-Klux Klan, into which is woven numerous exciting incidents, and the establishment of the colored race as an asset to the South, brings the production to a close. True love triumphs over prejudice and the lovers are left standing upon the mountains, watching the birth of a strong and united nation.

Director Porter's fears that "The Birth of a Nation" might result in race riots proved to be unfounded. There was plenty of applause, for the picture merited that, but only once was a hiss heard. That was when John Wilkes Booth was seen sneaking behind President Lincoln's box in Ford's Theater, Washington.

Colored Folk Applaud.

There was a sprinkling of colored folk through last night's audience and their actions spoke their feelings in the matter. Not once is there a scene to which anyone could take exception and in several instances where the Ku Klux Klan figured, the colored spectators joined the whites in their applause

A detail of police was sent to the For-

rest in case of eventualities, but were not needed. "The Birth of a Nation" is a masterpiece and begins a new era in photoplays in Philadelphia. It is probably the first of a number of high-class, well-acted moving pictures that will find ready favor in this city.

A PATRON OF THE ARTS.

(BY LESTER A. WALTON)

BECAUSE the Chicago authorities have been humane enough and courageous enough to bar from production the vicious photo play, "The Birth of a Nation," the Chicago *Tribune*, which styles itself "The world's greatest paper," has become deeply grieved, and so highly incensed is it over the actions of the city officials that it is showing its irritation by copiously shedding tears. If poverty was knocking at the door of the *Tribune* business office and the high financial rating it so proudly enjoys was not generally known, one would be led to suspect that this wailing and gnashing of teeth evidenced the bitter disappointment felt by the editors over failure to secure a share of the huge fund raised by the producers of the picture for advertising purposes. But not so with the *Tribune*, which, in the role of a patron of the arts, is downcast and sad because Chicago citizens will be denied the rare privilege of seeing "the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers."

Following is the stand taken by the Chicago *Tribune*:

The moving picture play "The Birth of a Nation" is, in our opinion, the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers. It ranks with "Cabiria" as a tremendous spectacle and for the American temperament it has points of artistic advantage over the D'Annunzio photoplay.

In Chicago it has thus far been barred from production. It is not immoral or coarse. It does not offend for any of the reasons which usually cause the prohibition of picture plays or the elimination of scenes from them. It is in all essential episodes grounded on historical fact, representing the struggles of that terrible time in the South when the whites, back from war, saw their government taken over by the newly enfranchised blacks controlled by the northern carpetbaggers.

What happened with the Negro ascendant and how the white re-established his supremacy is shown with obvious natural sympathy for the South, and no doubt with such heightening of effect as dramatic art has a right to employ. It presents what the South says and the North of our day, at least, is inclined to believe to be truth.

The Tribune has been and is opposed to interference with freedom of expression, but it confesses that the subject here involved has complexities which do not yield to the application of ordinary rules. The terrible concrete reality of the moving picture is the disturbing factor and the consequent emotional response of the spectator is the disturbing result. The sin of the film is its effectiveness.

A lecturer with ability to touch men's susceptibilities might take this subject and do his emotional best with it and we doubt that a voice would be raised to stop him. Such people as might go to hear him would have their feelings made more acute, might have their prejudices heightened, but in the end the chief result would be that they knew more about the days of reconstruction.

The moving picture not so much makes its spectators know more about the period; it makes them live through it, vicariously but intensely, and the city government has said, in effect, that the citizens of Chicago ought not to live through it, and they ought not, as a matter of public policy, to enter a theatre from which they must come with prejudices and race hatreds inflamed.

If the validity of this argument be questioned, as it is bound to be, let the consideration of the subject go further. We may suppose that one producing company has selected the time of the Spanish inquisition for film purposes, or that another has taken the persecution of the Irish Catholics by Cromwell, and that either play or both, done after the manner of "Cabiria" and "The Birth of a Nation," were put in Chicago theatres. Assume that these plays kept to historical accuracy. Query: Would it be public policy to permit the productions?

All censorship is an infringement of that perfect freedom of thought and expression which is dear to the liberal as an ideal if not always acceptable as a fact. Where we concede any restriction it is extremely difficult if not impossible to justify it on other grounds than those of expediency. Censorship of information and of debate is allowed only in extreme cases, as under martial law. Censorship of literary expression also is permitted only within relatively narrow limits. The field broadens, however, with restrictions upon other forms of art, especially where their appeal is to emotion rather than reason and effects of public consequence are feared.

But here it is necessary for us to resist a tendency easily extended in the general name of expediency or morality. Not all cases are as clear as those we have cited, and restriction is often the result of the organized zeal of minute minorities rather than an expression of the consensus of a community's opinion. Also there is always a disposition to use power when it is created.

Censorship often accomplishes concrete benefits and may be conceded to be necessary. But we ought never to lose sight of the fact that, if necessary, it is a necessary evil which we are right in regarding jealously.

No, gentle reader, you have not read an editorial published in a Southern daily edited by a Tillman or a Vardaman, but the sentiments expressed come from one of the great and influential journals of the Middle West, a paper published in a city where the colored and white citizens are on exceedingly friendly terms. This contribution to literature in behalf of art appeared in a newspaper supposedly friendly to colored people. One of the publishers of the *Tribune* is a member of the Illinois Emancipation Commission which is making extensive preparations to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the colored American's freedom in Chicago during the month of August.

Perhaps the editor, who is a member of the Emancipation Commission, does not agree with his associates on the *Tribune* on some subjects relative to the Negro. For instance, the Emancipation Commission is zealously striving to show the great progress the Negro has made in the United States in fifty years. The prevailing sentiment on the *Tribune* is to depict the Negro little more than a savage, lustful, ignorant and impossible; to degrade the colored woman, to make members of the Ku Klux Clan heroes and to convince that the killing of innocent, helpless people was justifiable.

The writer of the article in the *Tribune* seems to have been completely carried away with the photo play, evidently presented in private, by its artistic appeal, so much so that he has characterized it "the greatest piece of work done for the films by American producers." While this may be true, the fact remains that the photo play is vicious, untrue, unjust, and has been primarily produced to cause race friction in the Northern cities.

In Germany the sinking of the Lusitania by a submarine is regarded as "the greatest piece of work done since the advent of the submarine." But do we Americans share the views of the Germans? Some stilettos are artistically carved and very pretty, as are some revolvers, but notwithstanding their artistic value they are dangerous and objectionable, and so is "The Birth of a Nation."

In the South we seldom take the rantings of a demagogue seriously, for we know that he is swayed by baser passions rather than by common sense and logic, and we have learned to consider the source. But we are filled with utter amazement and deep chagrin upon reading the editorial in the Chicago *Tribune*. And the views expressed by the *Tribune* bring to our attention that either the paper entertains similar views as Thomas Dixon and other Negro-haters on the race question, or that it is frightfully ignorant of American history in which the Negro has played a prominent part.

If the *Tribune* has at hand information that a Negro Lieutenant-Governor of South Carolina ever used force to make a white girl marry him as shown in the picture we would appreciate favor if the facts were published.

If at any time during the Reconstruction Period colored members of the legislature walked about in their bare feet, drank liquor and committed other acts of indiscretion during the session of the legislature as described by the film (shown to instill in the minds of white citizens that the colored man is not fit to serve as a public official) we would highly appreciate favor if facts were published.

If the colored legislators, during the Reconstruction Period, passed laws permitting the marriage of white and colored people, and white men and women were openly insulted in the legislative halls, we would also highly appreciate favor if facts were published.

When the *Tribune* boldly asserts that "The Birth of a Nation" is "not immoral or coarse" one is moved to inquire as to the *Tribune's* code of morals. If vividly depicting on the film the illicit relations between black men and white women and white men and black women is not immoral, if the fatal mishap to the white girl pursued by the colored rapist is not immoral, and if murder is not immoral then we agree with the *Tribune* that the picture is "not immoral or coarse."

The Chicago *Tribune* says: "The sin of the film is its effectiveness." We say the sin of the film is its viciousness—its distortion of history and its uncalled assault on a race that was loyal when such men as Thomas Dixon opposed the North which he now cunningly seeks to win over; a race which at this momentous period of our history should be lauded and encouraged for its loyalty and patriotism, rather than unjustly maligned and unnecessarily misrepresented.

THE 'NIGGER' BARRED AT BENTON HARBOR

Rev. Sampson Appears Before the Mayor and Council on Behalf of Race.

(Special to the Chicago Defender.)

Benton Harbor, Mich., June 25.—Branding "The Nigger," a movie film to be shown this week at the Princess Theater, as vicious and defamatory a factor in increasing race hatred, ored residents of the city last even- g sent a petition to the city council sking the mayor and aldermen to ake steps to prevent the showing of the film at the local playhouse. This local protest is in line with similar protests from people in many cities where the film has been shown and where it has drawn bitter criticism from the Negroes. More than two-thirds of the colored citizens of Benton Harbor were out on Thursday, June 3, to a massmeeting held at the Second Baptist Church to see if some plan could not be drawn up by which the disgraceful play known as "The Nigger," which is billed at the Princess Theater, could be stopped. Rev. B. J. Sampson, who was elected chairman, made reply to Alderman Freedman, who spoke of the Negro and the Jews. Rev. Sampson said: "I believe if a man pats my shoulder during his campaign he should lend me a helping hand if he is elected." All day Rev. Sampson was trying to have this play stopped. Rev. Sampson was heard telling him: "You are the man we need. We are at your back." Rev. Sampson made a 20-minute talk before the mayor and council which will long be remembered in Benton Harbor. The mayor had said that there was nothing he could do, but when Rev. Sampson had finished the council agreed to heed this young hero just coming into ministerial manhood, and who has the stability. The cries of all were not to give up until the last effort had been made. A committee was appointed to visit this play, and whatever was degrading was to be cut out. Benton Harbor should give honor to whom honor is due. Rev. Sampson was unexpectedly called out of the city and did not get to see the movie.

"Birth of a Nation" Revised.

After ten adjournments the summons issued against Harry E. Aitken and D. W. Griffith, producers of the film play, "The Birth of A Nation," was dismissed by Magistrate Herbert in Jefferson Market Court yesterday. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People had caused the summons to be issued. Changes were made in the film and then the complaint was withdrawn.

Race Problem - 15
Moving Pictures
Philadelphia Pa
Christian Recorder
Aug 14/15

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

So much has been said concerning the photoplay entitled "The Birth of a Nation" that the editor made a trip to Atlantic City last Saturday night to see it, in order, from first-hand information, to inform his readers concerning the same.

"The Birth of a Nation" is arranged for the moving pictures by D. W. Griffith, a Kentucky white man, and is based upon Tom Dixon's "The Clansman." The play begins by showing the introduction of Negroes into the country, which is said to have been the source of all the troubles of the country ever since.

The play describes itself as "An historical drama in two acts." But it really has three. The first part has to do with the early history of the United States. It gives a few incidents of the Revolutionary War. But chiefly it endeavors to show in the first scenes the friendship between the South and the North by depicting a love scene between the young manhood and womanhood of each section. Col. Benj. Cameron was a rising young statesman of South Carolina, a member of Congress in Washington, while Hon. Austin Stoneman, of Pennsylvania, was the leader of the House of Representatives and the most radical man of the anti-slavery forces in Congress.

Between the young people of the Cameron family and the Stoneman family grew up warm friendship, which gradually ripened into true love. All ran smoothly until the war came, when the Stoneman boys went to war for the Union and the young Camerons for the Confederacy.

Up to this point the pictures are more or less commonplace, giving scenes of Southern and Northern life, and of things in the national capital. Nevertheless it lays a good foundation for what is to follow. For then come some of the most brilliant and realistic moving pictures we have ever seen. Many battlefields are shown, with a skill which might well turn any man of ordinary human feeling against war. For not only do we see the war in the distance with the brilliancy of army fireworks illuminating the skies in most picturesque manner, but war is brought within a few feet of us, and one sees the bayonet as it pierces the fallen soldier, sees the eyes and reads the expression of the dying victim, beholds the flow of blood from the bodies of the dying and almost hears their expiring groans. The famous battles around Petersburg and Richmond are brought forward in all their horrors. Lee surrenders, but not until the pictures had shown the heroism of Col. Ben Cameron in his charge against the troops of his boyhood friend, Col. Phil Stoneman, in which the Southern soldiers were all but exterminated, and Ben was saved only by the generous Colonel of the Union forces.

Lincoln's assassination is most vividly and pathetically portrayed, and is a valuable piece of historical drama. The Presidential box is shown, the arrival of the Presidential party. The play, "Our American Cousin ," proceeds, the bodyguard of Lincoln leaves his post to view the play. J. Wilkes Booth stealthily enters the Lincoln box after adjusting the trigger of his pistol. Lincoln seems to have a premonition, and buttons his coat around his neck. Then the fatal shot is fired. Booth jumps to the stage, utters the famous words, "Sic semper tyrannus," and while the crowd is in an uproar of excitement, makes his escape.

* * * * * * * * *

The play has lasted now nearly an hour and a half. It has shown well the horrors of war. Then follows part second, in which it follows Dixon's "Clansman" very closely. The pictures show the dark side of Reconstruction.

Austin Stoneman, of Pennsylvania, is pictured as the leader of Congress. He sends his mulatto protege, Silas Lynch, South to organize the Negroes. He is elected lieutenant governor. The South Carolina Legislature is largely Negro. Stoneman is determined to make the Negro the white man's equal. The whites resent this. They do not want Negroes to have anything to do with the government, so they organize a secret society called the Klu Klux Klan. The inspiration for this is gotten by Col. Ben Cameron, who saw some white children throw a sheet over their heads and frighten a crowd of Negro children. Meanwhile a picture is shown of a renegade Negro, called Gus, who pursued a white girl, who to escape him jumped over a precipice. Though no mention is made of rape, the setting lends to the presumption that he meant to commit rape upon the child. Gus is murdered by the whites. The White Caps, or Klu Klux Klan, spread to other communities and had orders to disarm and intimidate the Negroes. The final act of pictures to the real play is the attempt of Silas Lynch to marry the daughter of Austin Stoneman. She would not accept him and he endeavors to force her. Her father, in the meantime, arrives and is told by Lynch that he would like to marry a white woman, to which Stoneman replies that is all right. Then he tells him it is his (Stoneman's) daughter he desires to marry, and the old man strenuously objects. For a half hour the maneuvers of the K. K. K. are pictured and it all comes to a great climax when they burst into the lieutenant governor's offices and rescue the young white woman from marrying the Negro. Her rescue was led by Col. Ben Cameron, her former lover, and then all ended by their marriage and that of their brother and sister.

The last part of the play is entitled "A New Era," and contains scenes from Hampton Institute, Virginia. There is clearly no relation between the former part of the play and these Hampton scenes. Nor is there any mention of these in "The Clansman" upon which the photoplay is based or in the descriptive story of "The Birth of a Nation," as published by the film company. It is said that these Hampton scenes were put in in order to attempt to show that there was no ill feeling toward the Negro. But they are clearly out of place, and the wonder to us is that the authorities of Hampton Institute would permit their school to be shown in connection with such a damaging misrepresentation of the race they are striving to help. For surely they cannot be thought to approve Mr. Dixon's work.

So much for the picture. The music, which is by J. C. Breil, was quite as remarkable as the pictures. In fact but for the music the pictures would not have told their story. Had the music one ordinarily hears at a moving picture show been played, the whole would have been "tame." Very frequent use was made of patriotic songs, "Star Spangled Banner," "Columbia," "My Country, 'Tis of Thee," also "Dixie," "Swanee River," "In the Gloaming," "Home, Sweet Home," "Coming Through the Rye," as well as many sacred hymns.

We noted each scene applauded and they were as follows:

The first appearance of the Confederate flag received about a half dozen handclaps in different parts of the house.

The first three times "Dixie" was played there was applause.

Sherman's march received vociferous applause, but was cut short by a quick shifting to a scene of intense suffering of women and children.

The burning of Atlanta received applause.

Though "drummed up" by a fine "spurt" of good music, the rescue of Piedmont, S. C., by the Confederates failed to bring applause. I have seen similar rescues of American pioneers in the west by United States troops bring deafening applause where there was but little music.

The prolonged battles in which Lee's forces tried to break through the

THE BOSTON PROTEST

The Richmond Planet 9/15/15

We have read with interest and admired with gratification the fight that Editor William Monroe Trotter, Attorney William H. Lewis, Rev. A. W. Pullar, Messrs. John W. Schenck, C. Henry Robbins, Atty. Butler R. Wilson, Rev. Samuel A. Brown and others have been making to secure the suppression in Boston of the moving picture play, "Birth of a Nation." We have observed with interest the stirring scenes enacted in this city, sometimes known as the "cradle of liberty" and they remind us of the ante-bellum scenes in some sections of this country.

The court denied the relief asked and now the legislature of the Old Bay State is being importuned to furnish the needed remedy. The Board of Censors could settle the whole matter if they would and thus save this additional annoyance and expense.

The agitators are "in their glory," so to speak, but as we read the columns of the Guardian, it seems to us that the Boston people are lavish in their protest and condemnation, but very economical in their contributions.

These clashes are becoming more frequent. The men who have been persistent in arousing race hatred have been permitted to ply their vocations virtually without protest, until nowhere within the confines of the United States can the colored people be assured of fair-play and decent treatment. "The pendulum is bound to swing the other way," and when it does, the salvation of the citizen of color will be at hand. We must unite and we must agitate.

Manhood rights and constitutional privileges must never be relinquished. We must insist upon all of our rights under the State and Federal Constitutions. No race of freemen will submit to indignity and outrage without a protest. When a race does this, its deathknell is sounded and slavery and oppression may be seen in the distance.

Union forces to rescue a food train failed to bring applause.

The Confederate flag was applauded the first, second, third and fifth time it appeared, but not thereafter. The United States flag was applauded twenty-three times in succession.

Lee's surrender was applauded.

Lincoln was applauded when he replied to a question as to how he would deal with the Southern States by saying, "I shall deal with them as though they have never been away."

When the curtain came down at the end of the first part there was no applause. Nor was there any at the beginning of part two.

Through all the scenes during the first part of the second section there was but little applause. The Klu Klux Klan was, however, applauded seven-teen times.

Boston Post

April 19

"Birth of a Nation" Managers Defend Play

The letter published by Moorfield Storey criticising "The Birth of a Nation" has called forth the following reply from the management of the play at the Tremont Theatre:

"Whatever may be the differing opinions about 'The Birth of a Nation,' it will do far less harm and excite much less racial prejudice than a newspaper called 'The Crisis' published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which Mr. Moorfield Storey is the president.

"Mr. Storey attacks 'The Birth of a Nation' through a letter in one of the Boston morning papers. Perhaps he does not know that the publication issued by his organization is of an incendiary character. In one of the recent issues, of which we have a copy, negroes are advised to meet the white race 'with the rifle and sword.' They are exhorted to fight for their 'rights,' to receive their enemies 'with bullets,' and to 'organize! organize! agitate! agitate!'

"We would not quote these remarks of Mr. Storey's publication but for his obvious intent to denounce 'The Birth of a Nation' for doing exactly what he is doing. But we deny in toto that we are inculcating race prejud
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whites too, whose benefactions to
negro race are rarely told of.

Jane Addams' View

"The quotation from Miss Jane Addams in Mr. Storey's letter must be judged in view of the fact that she saw only one-half of the play. Has Mr. Storey viewed any part of it? Or is he speaking entirely on hearsay evidence?

"Mr. Storey alleges that 'The Birth of a Nation' distorts the truth of history. David W. Griffith will give to Mr. Storey or to any charity he may name the sum of $10,000 in return for pointing out any such distortion. As a matter of fact, 'The Birth of a Nation' is historically true.

"All the historical circumstances therein can be verified by reference to the works of Woodrow Wilson, Fleming, Rhodes and other writers. The assumption that the play attacks the negro race of today is a purely gratuitous one. The 'caricature of the negro' is in Mr. Storey's own imagination. Three out of the five important negro characters are heroes, not villains. The negro is never shown in the play as the sole author of mischief, but rather as incited to unworthy acts by the carpetbaggers.

"Thomas Dixon is not the author of 'The Birth of a Nation' and the play should not be judged by his expression on the negro question. Mr. Griffith made his own scenario, and it is to be judged by what he has done and not by what the National association attributes to Mr. Dixon.

Contribution to Art

"If Mr. Griffith had invented a steam turbine or an airship or a new chemical process or scientific management, he would be acclaimed as a public benefactor, and nothing would be heard of the diatribes. But since he has merely invented a new art that brings the dawn of a better and a greater day to the theatres of the world, he is greeted with abuse and obliquy. Opponents are unwilling to have him give another side of civil struggle than the side of which they have been accustomed, and they lose all perspective of his wonderful art achievement.

"Toleration is the breath of art. The people of Boston, we feel confident, should appraise for themselves Mr. Griffith's message and Mr. Griffith's contribution to the drama of today. If unwilling to await this verdict, Mr. Storey and his colleagues might at least have informed themselves of the verdict given by hundreds of eminent persons in New York and elsewhere, including George Foster Peabody, the banker-philanthropist, or Frank A. Vanderlip, the financier; Revs. Drs. C. H. Parkhurst and Thomas B. Gregory; Congressman Claude Kitchen, the new leader of the House; U. S. Senators Martine, Fletcher, Myers, Walsh and Jones; Governor Johnson of California; Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the suffragist leader; Richard Harding Davis, Booth Tarkington, Rupert Hughes and Dorothy Dix, among the writers.

NEGROES PROTEST CIVIL WAR FILMS

Boston Delegation Makes Appeal to Governor Walsh.

RACIAL PREJUDICE ALLEGED

Representatives of White Citizens Also Protestants Against Exhibition.—State Executive Says He Will Ask Legislature to Pass Law Covering Case.

Boston, April 19.—Governor Walsh summoned Attorney General H. C. Atwill, Chief George E. Neal of the State police, Stephen O'Meara, Police Commissioner of this city, and Superintendent of Police Michael H. Crowley to a conference at the State House to-day to determine whether he had authority to prohibit the further exhibition in this city of picture films purporting to portray scenes of the Civil War. Mayor Curley has decided that he cannot stop the production inasmuch as it is not established that the pictures are obscene.

While the Governor was closeted with the other officials several hundred negroes waiting to be heard in protest against the exhibition occupied the steps of the State House opposite the memorial to Col. Robert Gould Shaw, the white officer who lost his life while leading a negro regiment in the charge against Fort Wagner. Among them were a number who were arrested following a demonstration at a theatre Saturday night.

WHITES JOIN PROTEST.

In addition to the negro protestants there was a white representation also opposed to the pictures. These included Mrs. Joseph Williams, a niece of Wendell Phillips; William D. Brigham, Secretary of the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association, and Miss Elizabeth Putnam.

During the wait for the hearing by the Governor several speeches were made. The speakers declared that the exhibition was a travesty on history designed not only to discredit the negro race, but to hold up to contempt and ridicule the abolitionists of Massachusetts and the Union soldier. They asserted that in addition to intensifying race prejudice the pictures gave the younger generation a false impression of the war, and served to revive the bitterness once existing between the North and the South.

The Governor, after the conference, told a delegation representing the protestants that he would ask the Legislature to pass a law prohibiting plays or picture exhibitions that would raise the race question.

TO FRAME COMPLAINT.

Police Commissioner O'Meara said he thought that a statute enacted in 1910 governing public exhibitions would authorize him to stop the one in question and he asked the committee to call at his office to-morrow to frame a complaint.

In addressing the committee Governor Walsh said that the sole reason he did not act arbitrarily and forthwith to stop the exhibition was because he lacked authority. He instructed the committee to make a formal complaint against the exhibitors in the Municipal Court and said the Police Commissioner would accept the decision of the court. He added, in part: "I sympathize with you tremendously. If there is anything tending to destroy and undermine American institutions and American liberty it is race or religious prejudice. I do not propose while I am Governor to allow any movement arousing antagonism to any race of people in Massachusetts. If there is no law covering the subject we will try to have one enacted."

RACE FILM FOES UNDAUNTED BY CENSORS "O K"

JUN 3 1915

"The fight against 'The Birth of a Nation' is not at an end," said Butler Wilson, attorney, one of the leaders in the effort to drive the photo-play from Boston, commenting today on the action of the new board of censorship in refusing to stop the production at the Tremont Theatre.

"The colored people at least are determined to drive it out of the theatres of the country, because they believe it to be a political propaganda aimed at the destruction of their political rights," he added. Then he said: "We believe we were right, and still think so. We believe there is law enough to justify a revocation."

At the end of a three hours' session in Mayor Curley's office last night the censorship board unanimously voted not to stop the photo-play.

"Having witnessed the performance, heard counsel representing the protestors and the licensee, and having given full consideration to the entire subject," the official statement of the board reads: "We have decided that the license of the thea- should not be revoked or suspended."

This action places the official stamp of approval on the production which resulted in numerous public hearings in a clash between the mayor and the Negroes of the city, in a demonstration at the doors of the Tremont Theatre, followed by court action, and finally in legislative action that ended in creating the present board of censorship, consisting of the mayor, as chairman; the police commissioner and the chief justice of the municipal court.

Both Sides Present.

One hour was allowed each side to present its case. Representing the objectors were J. Mott Hallowell, W[illiam] H. Lewis and Butler R. Wilson. They rehearsed the case from the beginning, re-stated the objections already aired in City Hall, in churches, in courts and in the State House, and presented a petition bearing the names of more than 6000 who oppose the production of the film.

John F. Cusick appeared for the producers, and Corporation Counsel Sullivan was present in an advisory capacity.

The details of the session were not made public by the board, although, at the end of two hours of testimony taking, the attorneys for the objectors explained the proceedings to a group of nearly 100 Negroes who had waited outside the mayor's office. After hearing the testimony, the board sat for nearly an hour, in executive session.

As soon as the decision was reached, shortly after 7 o'clock, the mayor jumped into his automobile for a trip to New Bedford, where he had promised to act as the godfather at a Christening at 7:30. On leaving, his chauffeur told him that he would not be more than two hours and 15 minutes late.

Schoeffel Satisfied.

John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre, said last night:

"I am sincerely glad that 'The Birth of a Nation' has been passed and application to revoke the license refused, because the judgment of the directors in booking the play has been thereby justified. Whatever inequality may have been felt in regard to the historical treatment of the Negro in some parts of the film has been removed by the incorporation of the Hampden Institute film, which shows the marvelous progress of the colored race since Reconstruction. We believe 'he Birth of a Nation' to be not only legally permissible, but also as now given a thoroughly impartial story holding the scales of justice even. We therefore invite the support of all the people of New England, and we beg to say that no malice is felt toward anyone whomsoever that has opposed the production in this city. To the more than 100,000 patrons who have seen it and to the 15,000 persons, who in the last 10 days have signed petitions protesting against any interference, we extend ou hearty thanks."

Race Problem - 1915

Moving Pictures

MORALS AND THE MOVIES

—:o:—

By ORRIN G. COCKS

Advisory Secretary of The National Board of Censorship

—:o:—

Every devoted parent in Ohio wants his child kept out of the muck and mire of life. This feeling is so universal that the conviction has been written into the common law. All elements of Society unite to insist that the filth of life disappear, or, at least, be kept at the minimum. For six years, The National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures has carried on its share of this work of prevention in the industry which now ministers to the amusement daily of eight million people. It will become increasingly effective in protecting the morals of Society if it has the co-operation of earnest and skilled social leaders in the cities of Ohio. Only public opinion, voiced through democratic and volunteer representation, can adequately handle this ethical situation.

It is an easy task to exclude from public view the things which are undoubtedly bad. Isn't it? But how about those which may or may not be harmful?

When you were a boy, did your mother say something like this? "You can gather flowers but not nuts on Sunday." "It's all right to go to a ball game, but you mustn't watch a pool game." "Of course, you cannot go to a burlesque show." "You can play marbles and casino as much as you please, but you can't shoot craps or play poker." "I didn't say taking cookies from the pantry was bad, but helping yourself to Mr. Jones' peaches is stealing." "I don't want you ever to bring 'Jane Eyre,' 'The Scarlet Letter,' or 'The Silence of Dean Maitland' from the library." It was a problem to know where to draw the line. Wasn't it?

The border line questions of morality and conduct are difficult ones. People's opinions vary so much that it is difficult to be fair to all classes in criticising motion pictures. The World and his family are found sometimes during the week at the movies. The Motion Picture Industry, organized for entertaining folks, must deal continually with the problems that perplex all conscientious parents. It is no easy task to discern the hair which divides the false from the true!

The National Board of Censorship of Motion Pictures has established standards which are the outgrowth of long experience. Some idea of the variety of rulings which have been codified for the protection of the public can be gathered from the following list. This organization sends advices on definite themes to the manufacturers and prevent the production of pictures which do not meet with public approval. A partial list includes: The prolonged success of criminals; close and detailed views of crime; deliberate arson for revenge; the senseless use of weapons; near and prolonged views of murder; the actual use of poison and stupefying drugs; contempt for officers of the law; the brutal handling of women and children; cruelty to animals; the unnatural actions of lunatics; distressing views of the insane and feeble minded; abandoned drinking and under-world scenes; the insincere and suggestive portrayal of the Social Evil; scenes in houses of prostitution and of solicitation; the details of immoral sex relations; over passionate love scenes; stimulating close dancing; unnecessary bedroom scenes in negligee; excessively low-cut gowns; undue or suggestive display of the person; comedy which is vulgarly indecent; humor which offends against morals; flirtations which are sacrilegous or offensive to religious convictions; the triumph of evil.

In passing judgment upon pictures presenting these and other themes with variations, The National Board recognizes that young people frequent the picture shows in large numbers. Such has been the influence of this body that certain classes of pictures have entirely disappeared. Some of the other ideas imbedded in the list given above constantly recur. The attention, therefore, of the most skilled, sane and disinterested people is constantly required to prevent their appearance.

The great mass of people are slow to act in immoral and illegal ways. They require decided stimulus to cause them to commit immoral acts. There are, however, a few in each community who are unusually open to surface influences. The rest of Society must be protected from these abnormal people. It may be the twentieth or the fiftieth man who follows some sugestion an injures the rest of Society. It is the function of The National Board to prevent such suggestions from being made in motion pictures. It assumes the responsibility for the protection of the defenseless, the impressionable, the abnormal and the degenerate.

This work of prevention in the motion picture field may be conducted in one of two ways. It may either be destructive or constructive. The destructive method of criticism simply cuts away the bad and at a time when opposition is strong and hatreds are engendered. The National Board believes in the constructive method. It works in the region of prevention. While entirely independent and disinterested, it makes suggestions to the manufacturers at a time when money can be saved and evils can be corrected at the source. It is wideawake to the wholesome and developing standards of public morality. When these are ascertained, it passes them on to those who entertain the public. When such co-operative methods fail, when the will of the people is nullified, The National Board calls upon the authorities to enforce its decisions. Many a manufacturer of pictures has learned to his sorrow that his money has been wasted by defying this organization. From points as widely scattered as Boston, Milwaukee and Los Angeles, he has learned that his immoral production was a total commercial loss.

The motion picture, today, is overwhelmingly clean. This is absolute truth. It stands on a par with the book, the stage, college athletics or professional baseball in wholesomeness. Again and again, persons have gone out to find bad pictures and have reported that the motion picture houses of their city were surprisingly clean. What criticism was passed was against the posters on the outside of the buildings and the third class vaudeville which was introduced for variety.

Since this is the case, no group of persons in any city should condemn all the motion pictures shown there until some have been sanctioned for circulation. Such an attitude besmirches an industry which is fifth in importance in the United States. It is the occasional and objectionable picture which is deserving of disapproval. Just as a few plays or a few books are discarded because of their character, while the vast majority are accepted without a question, so motion pictures should be treated. No one thinks of condemning baseball or college athletics because one or two players are detected in unprofessional practices. No more should film plays be rejected as a whole because one or two are bad.

The motion picture has as its field the sum-total of human experiences, good, bad and indifferent. The camera enlarges the field of the stage a hundred fold. The big motives and situations governing life are detected and woven into intensely human stories by men of undoubted ingenuity. Who is wise enough accurately to place the ban on some of these experiences and on some of the motives which make or mar humanity? To err is human! The truth is in the hands neither of the ultra conservative nor the ultra liberal. The finest and most effective way of approximating public opinion is to place the criticism in the hands of skilled volunteers who are wideawake to the opinions and convictions of their fellows.

The National Board keenly appreciates its responsibility to the people of the Nation. It attempts to formulate and enforce these convictions in a practical and effective manner. The Board is compased of and directed by 140 or 145 skilled vounteeers. These persons pass judgment on fully 95 per cent. of the 9,000 film stories circulated annually throughout the country.

The membership of the Board is drawn from mature people with large knowledge of life and the fundamental belief in the wholesomeness of humanity. Among the members there are parents, professional people, educators, social workers, settlement leaders, business men and church people. From time to time, when pictures are presented which introduce difficult individual or social problems, experts are invited to the meetings to advise with the members. The Board is constantly seeking the judgment of the people throughout the country who know motion pictures and their effects on various people and age groups. Although located in New York, as the centre of the motion picture industry, The National Board does not acept as a basis of criticism the standards of the New York stage or of its complicated liberal and abnormal life.

But why censor the motion picture at all when the stage is not censored? There are some decided differences between the stage and the motion picture show. Plays are produced at great expense. They are worked over continually even after the "first night" until they are satisfactory. One group of actors produces the play in one theatre. It is subjected to a variety of newspaper criticism. When it is found to be unprofitable, it is removed from the play houses once for all. Most picture films, on the other hand, are reproduced from ten to one hundred times. They appear simultaneously in different parts of the country. The majority of them obtain little publicity. When they are once made, they are always practically the same. They embrace thousands of subjects as against scores of theatrical themes.

Because of these differences, motion picture stories require careful criticism by skilled and disinterested people, both to protect the public and to preserve a remarkable instrument for the amusement and inspiration of Society. The wisest and most farseeing of the manufacturers and exhibitors recognize the need of the National Board to protect them from themselves and the few unprincipled members of the craft. They much prefer to pay the bill for criticism at the source than to pay it a hundred times over when their money is entirely wrapped up in their ventures. They prefer to abide by the decisions of one disinterested group than to be at the mercy of scores of censor boards throughout the country.

The National Board recognizes that it cannot decide finally upon pictures for the cities of the country. Every municipality in Ohio, whether consciously or unconsciously, has a standard of morality which differs in some respect from every other. The National Board, therefore, purposes to form co-operating volunteer groups in the cities of Ohio which shall be independent and effective in enforcing local ethical decisions. These boards, selected from the most representative people of the city with clear-cut convictions, will be appointed by the mayors with authority to examine and suppress the five per cent. of pictures now submitted to The National Board and those others which, in the judgment of Society, should not be shown in the city. The conditions of circulation of film in the motion picture houses are such that the smaller cities and towns will be absolutely protected by the censor boards in the larger cities.

FILM PLAY FOES FIND SULLIVAN BILL IMPERFECT

Confer with View to Framing Workable Measure After Public Hearing Where Clergymen and Lawyers Defend "The Birth of a Nation" and Oppose Bill Offered.

Convinced that the bill presented by Louis A. Sullivan to meet the situation arising out of the agitation against the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," is unworkable, the men interested in trying to procure legislation held a lengthy conference in the Senate reading room yesterday, after the hearing on the measure closed for the day.

Butler R. Wilson and William H. Lewis, J. Mott Hallowell and James A. Lowell joined in the gathering with other assistants in the effort to settle on some type of measure which would meet the requirements. No decision was announced.

The public hearing was devoted almost entirely to the objectors to any legislation which was aimed specifically to stop the play.

A few protested against any plans for censoring film shows on the ground that the theatrical people were entitled to freedom of picture as well as of speech. The hearing lasted till 1 o'clock in the afternoon and then adjournment was had till today at 10 A. M.

Negroes at Hearing.

Negroes practically filled the committee room, but during the proceedings they held their peace. In a few cases where some of the Negroes started to make adverse comments they were promptly hushed by their seat mates.

Two of the more prominent of the friends of "The Birth of a Nation" proved to be Charles Fleischer, a former Jewish rabbi, and the Rev. Chauncey J. Hawkins of Jamaica Plain. Mr. Fleischer declared it was his opinion that the protests against the play uttered by Gov. Walsh, Samuel W. McCall, Lieut.-Gov. Cushing and Speaker Cox of the House were actuated by political motives, although later he said he considered them all "honorable men."

Fleischer also declared that protests made against "The Birth of a Nation" by Moorfield Storey and the Rev. Herbert S. Johnson could be construed as inciting their fellow-citizens "to riot and rebellion" against the play.

M. Sumner Coggan, attorney for John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre, where the film is being shown, filed with the committee a bill to change the method of censorship in Bost

the Coggan bill would vest sole censorship in the mayor, but would give theatres the right of appeal either to the equity division of the superior court or to the supreme court. One provision in the Coggan bill is that it shall not take effect until Aug. 1 of this year, and Atty. Coggan said that he had put this in because the theatrical season in Boston closes on that date.

"Temporary Hysteria."

The general argument of advocates of the film play was that the legislation proposed against it and similar productions was temporary hysteria born of agitation; that to pass the legislation proposed by the opponents of the play would be to restrict "freedom of expression" and would virtually prohibit the production of anything objected to.

Corporation Counsel Sullivan, who represented Mayor Curley in opposition to the legislation proposed by opponents of "The Birth of a Nation," declared it would bar from the stage "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and some of Shakespeare's plays.

John F. Cusick, attorney for the company producing "The Birth of a Nation," conducted the hearing for the advocates of the film. He said he would content himself in opening with the statement that "this is a government of laws and not of men."

"This legislation," said Atty. Coggan, "is not conceived in a calm and deliberate attempt to regulate, but in the hysteria of a few well meaning, well intentioned members of society directed at a production now going on in this city."

Argues Right of Appeal.

Coggan said he understood Mayor Curley had told Lieut.-Gov. Cushing and Butler R. Wilson that if he had the power he would drive "The Birth of a Nation" out of the state; that if this was so, it showed that the theatre should have the right of appeal as proposed in his bill.

Representative Sullivan of ward 19,

Boston Herald

IN REPLY TO MR. STOREY.

To the Editor of The Herald:

Whatever may be the differing opinions about "The Birth of a Nation," it will do far less harm and excite much less racial prejudice than a newspaper called The Crisis, published by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, of which Mr. Moorfield Storey is the president. Mr. Storey attacks the "Birth of a Nation" through a letter in The Herald. Perhaps he does not know that the publication issued by his organization is of an incendiary character. In one of the recent issues, of which we have a copy, Negroes are advised to meet the white race "with rifle and sword." They are exhorted to fight for their "rights," to receive their enemies "with bullets," and to "organize! organize! agitate! agitate!"

We would not quote these remarks of Mr. Storey's publication but for his obvious intent to denounce "The Birth of a Nation" for doing exactly what he is doing. But we deny in toto that we are inculcating race prejudice. All of the statements made by Mr. Storey in his letter can be successfully challenged.

The quotation from Miss Jane Addams in Mr. Storey's letter must be judged in view of the fact that she saw only one-half of the play. Has Mr. Storey viewed any part of it? Or is he speaking entirely on hearsay evidence?

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Toleration is the breath of art. The people of Boston, we feel confident, should appraise for themselves Mr. Griffith's message and Mr. Griffith's contribution to the drama of today. If unwilling to await this verdict Mr. Storey and his colleagues might at least have informed themselves of the verdict given by hundreds of eminent persons in New York and elsewhere, including George Foster Peabody, the banker-philanthropist; or Frank A. Vanderlip, the financier; Revs. Drs. C. H. Parkhurst and Thomas B. Gregory; Congressman Claude Kitchin, the new leader of the House; U. S. Senators Martine, Fletcher, Myers, Walsh and Jones; Gov. Johnson of California; Mrs. O. H. P. Belmont, the suffragist leader; Richard Harding Davis, Booth Tarkington, Rupert Hughes, Dorothy Dix among the writers.

J. J. McCARTHY.

Tremont Theatre, April 6.

THE COLORED AMERICAN'S SITUATION AND "BIRTH OF A NATION PHOTO PLAY.

The Transcript

In times of grave crisis for a people, every method of reaching the minds and hearts of those in a position where, by virtue of their official position, they can prevent the disaster, should be employed. At times it may be that an exposition not made to apply to the question at issue, hence in no sense "colored" by it, may have the greater effect. Hence we reproduce in part an editorial in a prominent Afro-American newspaper published in another Northern State, and written on an entirely different subject. This is an editorial in the Pittsburgh Courier, entitled "Pennsylvania." Its specific reference is to a bill in the legislature of that state stiffening the Civil Rights Bill. We ask Mayor Curley and his colleagues to note this:—

"On yon sunny slope in distant Italy a peasant dreams of the freedom of Pennsylvania. In coldest Siberia, amidst its ice and snow an exile longs for opportunity to set foot upon her soil, there to enjoy equality, peace and liberty, without restraint and yet in the largest city of the state as well as in the lowliest, the smallest hamlet, the Afro-American, he whose blood has flowed upon the batlefield, and mingled with that of the purest Caucasian, is denied the enjoyment of the commonest rights and privileges, and all the while Pennsylvania is styled the "Keystone State."

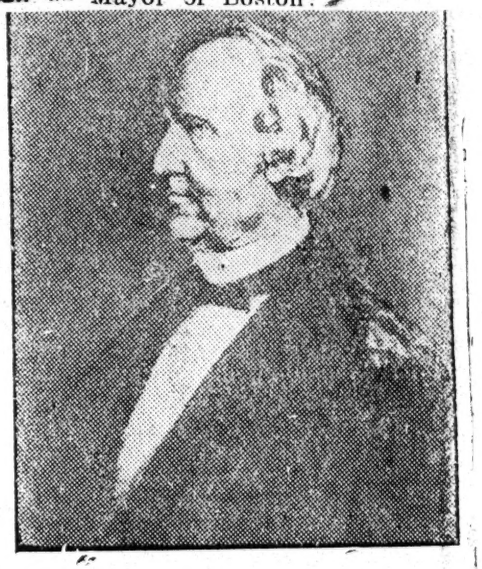
* * * * * * *

"It is unfair, unjust to the 200,000 native born Afro-American citizens within the state of Pennsylvania that the natives from all of the countries of Europe can come to our shores, find domicile within this state, enjoy unchallenged all of the rights and privileges of men and women, while he who is of the manor-born is discriminated against, segregated and denied the commonest courtesies merely on account of the hue of his skin. Bill 662 recently introduced in the State Legislature, seeks to prevent this rank injustice. Afro-Americans demand its passage."

It is such a condition of prejudice and actual civil discrimination based on the race prejudice of all the "white" citizens against the Colored citizens, which makes it extremely unfair and dangerous to permit plays which disparage Colored, which cause and increase antipathy toward them. They are not in a position to stand it; their position in this regard is peculiar. Such plays tend to injure the morals because of the existence of a race prejudice against them so great that picturing the Colored man as seeking to force the white woman definitely turns it into hatred and a desire to retaliate upon and injure them.

Verily as the New York Globe says: "Men are willing to foment a race antipathy that is the most sinister and dangerous feature of American life."

Now Mayor Curley knows this prejudice has increased in Boston. He also knows the Bourbon South seeks to foment it, for he has been in Congress and seen the promoters and publicly scored their effort. Why should he not realize this now when a real case of it comes home to himself as Mayor of Boston?



WENDELL PHILLIPS,

Boston's Noblest Son—Son of her first Mayor, who gave up all political chances and forsook his aristocratic circles to use genius for the race and suffrage which Dixon's play misrepresents and condemns—To him Boston erects a statue this year—Will his memory be spat upon by Dixon's play here? Great champion of cause of Irish when they were weak in U. S.—Friend of Daniel O'Connell.

AGREEMENT BY COMPARISON OF RACES FAILS.

The Transcript

In their glee and presumption over the Mayor's presumed attitude the promoters of "The Birth of a Nation" were out in yesterday morning's papers with immense advertisements made of "arguments"—One read thus in bold type. Our citizenry is composed obviously of extraordinarily numerous elements. If Africans are to have their say and oppose the production of a play (whether it be a spoken drama or on the screen) to which they object, why should not the Jews, Hungarians, Czechs, Teutons, French, Italian, Slavs, Scandinavians, Irish and Anglo Saxons also have the same privilege?"

There is a very great difference. No racial element is segregated but Colored, none is systematically lynched but the Colored. They are lynched for the same charge which they are pictured as doing in the play. Good God, for even smiling at a white woman or calling her name. This play looks toward lynching.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

"BIRTH OF A NATION" DIRTY, DANGEROUS SAYS GREAT DAILY

The New York Times 4/8/15

New York Globe Follows New York World in Unqualified Assault on Motives and Truth of Clansman Photo Film Still Shown in City

"WHITE RACE HAS NEVER BEEN FAIR TO BLACK"

In Ringing Editorial Recounts Injustice Done Colored Race by Nation for Generations, Declares Even North Does Not Grant It Industrial Chance and Calls Name of Play National Insult.

In the course of a ringing editorial on Tuesday the New York Evening Globe attacked the vicious photo film, "The Birth of a Nation," which Mayor Mitchel, despite loud and wholesale protests, has not been able to stop. The editorial follows:

"In view of the splendors of national reunion what should be the attitude of every right-minded person toward attempts to revive the passions of the Civil War period, relight the fires of sectionalism and intensify race prejudices that are unhappily still much alive? The questions sufficiently answer themselves, and when they are answered there is no reason to ask the further question of whether it is desirable, for purely sordid reasons, to exhibit such a moving picture film as the so-called 'The Birth of a Nation.'

"Story of Mistress Insult to South."

"Few of us are competent to pass judgment with respect to the tangled facts of the reconstruction period. A fair and impartial narrative has never been written and probably never will be. But certain big facts shine out in the confusion. One is that never in human history did a victor show more consideration for the defeated. Men but lately in arms were restored to full citizenship, States in rebellion were received back in the sisterhood of the States. Let us rejoice that the Stonemans of Washington were magnanimous, but let us not dishonor ourselves by calling in question their great merit by presenting them as the paramours of quadroon mistresses, moved by petty spite. It is insulting to every man of Southern birth to assume that he is pleased by misrepresentation so colossal.

"Another big fact of the reconstruction period is that the 4,000,000 former slaves, suddenly emancipated but with no way of earning their livelihood except by working at small wages for their former masters, displayed, all things considered, the most exemplary patience. They had protected the women and children on the plantations while the struggle went on which was to decide whether they were to become men or to remain as chattels, and the great body of them continued to exhibit, under the most trying circumstances, docility and kindliness. To present the members of the race as women chasers and foul fiends is a cruel distortion of history. Bad things occurred, but what man will say that the outrages of black on white equalled in number the outrages of white on black? Which race even to the present day has the better right to complain of the unfairness and brutality of the other?

Play Insults Washington and Lincoln.

"The very name of 'The Birth of a Nation' is an insult to Washington, who believed that a nation, not merely a congress of independent States was born during the common struggle of the Revolutionary War, and devoted himself to cementing the Union. It is an insult to Lincoln and the great motives inspiring him when he was called on to resist the attempt to denationize a nation. This nation of ours was not born between 1861 and 1865, and no one will profit from trying to pervert history.

THE BIRTH OF A NATION.

When the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," was produced at the Tremont theatre, Boston, last week, 2,500 colored people surrounded the playhouse in protest of the production. The leaders had pleaded with the mayor, insisting that he order the play stopped on the grounds that it was an unjust slur on the colored race. They plead in vain; consequently they took the only course open to them to show their risapproval of the pictures. However, this demonstration at the theatre was not the only one. After the mayor had refused to interfere about 3,000 colored people gathered on the state house steps and about the building and listened to an address to Governor Walsh by William Monroe Trotter and others, who asked him to take action against the production.

The governor did not interfere; perhaps because he did not have the authority. He, nevertheless, let it be known where he stood in the matter. He "announced his complete sympathy contending that the pictures tend to incite race prejudice and bigotry, disturbing the equal rights guaranteed to citizens of all classes under the constitution, and promised to use all his power to stop the production of the play."

It seems a little inconsistent to say that he did not have the authority and then that he promised to use all his power to stop the production. We take it that the governor had no right to directly interfere, and, as he has no with any lawful enterprise. His power, n this case, we think, would be his influence. The mayor perhaps had the greater right to stop the play. Yet it is not plain that even he had such a right. If he had clearly such authority, doubtless he would have exerted it in the interest of the peace of the city.

That the legislature of the state now in session, has been called on to act is proof that neither the governor nor the mayor were clothed with sufficient authority to stop the production. In pursuance of this method of calling off the play 300 colored men and women moved on that body where a bill had been filed the day before praying for relief. Lieutenant-Governor Cushing threw himself squarely in the fight, taking up the cause of the colored people.

"I am familiar with Legislature procedure," he said, "and I know that it ought not to take more than two or three days to pass a measure which will give the proper authority to the proper officials.

"I have not been to see the paly because my curiosity does not run along that line, but I am certainly opposed to the production of anything that tends to stir up race hatred and prejudice. You can readily see from the numbers gathered here today that there is necessity for some action."

The pictures are being produced in a very uncongenial community for success. The atmosphere of Boston is against them, yet, because their production is merely a business venture, the effort to end them is not easy; nor is the end foreseen even if the state of Massachusetts does succeed in ousting them. The movement seems to be a propaganda of hate, a moving exposition conceived for the purpose of inflaming race prejudice, and to what end the thoughtful can readily see. We would prefer to be mistaken in this view, but we cannot help being impressed with the thought that a deep-laid plan is discoverable to put the colored and white people at enmity and which can only result in some dreadful outbreak if the effort is not checked.

The effort should be nipped in the bud. This can be done. Only a comparative few are now interested in a factional strife, but if the effort continues many will grow to be race partisans, taking sides and which is natural enough, meaning in the end what now may be considered merely imagination. Not only Boston, or Massachusetts should be interested in conserving the peace, but the general nation. The government at Washington, should see to it that no cliques of individuals set their grievances up as against the national serenity. Success in this instance would unroll the history of the countries of past greatness to the view. It was then that groups of men, families, and even individuals, grew stronger than the state. Feuds and fractricidal civil wars ensued and ntinued until they consumed the Patrimony. Nothing stayed or stopped them when the thing of overlordism thrived and distributed the results of its victories.

It may be thought that we are sounding a needless alarm. We think otherwise. Men are yet flesh and blood. The present war of Europe teaches that we are not exempt from the repitition of history. In fact we seem to be verging on the old times. Mexico is as factious as Rome ever was. Men and factions are playing for power. The authority of no man is recognized as supreme—God being on the side of the heaviest batallions—in the parlance of sacrilegious men.

The demonstrations in Boston are in evidence already if one is inclined to pass up lightly the probable outcome of such exhibitions as "The Birth of a Nation." The governor of Massachusetts said:

"I don't suppose there was ever before a day like this in the State House in all its history, I hope to God it will never happen again."

Suppose that this production marches through all of our communities where there are large percentages of colored people, would it not be quite likely that more such scenes would occur? And is it possible to have such scenes without increased hate? Even where the play is not produced there would be feeling of sympathy for and against the race. It is plain enough that in a short while the whole country would become more racially partisan, and which would necessarily in time find vent by way of some happening or happenings which would not be for the good of the country.

We do not think we are too sensitive in the matter, seeing too much, or saying too much. We can not see how the country can escape civil turmoil of some kind if a veto is not put on such things as "The Birth of a Nation." If it is not an actual physical conflict it would be scarcely less disastrous, especially to our race, which would see the coil of restriction fastening about us, pressing us to civil death. This is no dream. Already we have this touch of civil infirmity, and it stands to reason that the result of moving expositions of hate would add to what is. The country would not escape the consequences of such a calamity. We do not mean to be prophetic. The future can only be judged by the past, and human nature as it is in the present persistently exhibited. The county cannot afford to be tied to a body of civil death—it would be such a condition.

It is up to us all to see to it that the total nation is quickened and not threatened by dead and useless members. It is up to the authorities to put down the things that are meant to breed such ills. It may be doing violence to business freedom in the meanwhile, yet when it is known that men are commercializing, selling the peace of the nation, somehow they should be stopped in selling the peace of the nation.

PROTEST AGAINST BIRTH OF NATION

Prominent Citizens Object to the Presentation of Obnoxious Photo-Play in This City.

A representative gathering of citizens, headed by Julius C. Johnson, president of the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, filed a protest with the Police Board on last Friday against the production here of Thomas Dixon's prejudice-creating photoplay "The Birth of a Nation."

It was pointed out that the play grossly misrepresenting the attitude of the race during the Reconstruction period. It was said that race prejudice might be so inflamed by its presentation here that trouble between the white and colored people may result, as happened in Boston. It was pointed out that a number of places had barred the play on the ground that it was inaccurate as to historical facts and a hindrance to amicable relations between the races.

President Daniel C. Ammidon, of the Police Board, told the delegation that it was not known here whether or not the play was as bad as claimed as it had never been presented here. He asserted that the protests of colored people would give the play unnecessary advertisement. He ventured the opinion that the Police Board would have the right to exclude a play unless it was shown to be vulgar or indecent.

It was pointed out to President Ammidon that the Police Board had refused to allow the presentation of the Johnson-Jeffries fight pictures on the alleged ground that they arouse race antagonism and that a colored religious body was refused permission to hold camp meeting on Wilkens avenue on the ground that some white people in the neighborhood may object.

President Ammidon concluded the hearing by promising that the Board would take the protest under advisement.

GOV. WILLIS OF OHIO REASSURES RACE OF HIS FRIENDSHIP

Buckeye State Executive Forbids Finally Thomas Dixon's "Birth of a Nation" and Colored Citizens Rejoice At Success

DEFEAT JIM CROWING PEDICS

As a Result of Vigilant Efforts of Colored Leaders Both Executive and Legislative Branches of Ohio State Government Go On Record in Favor of Right and Justice to Colored Citizens.

Columbus, O., April 27.—The colored people of Ohio won a big victory last week in securing the adoption, in the Ohio Senate, of amendments to two pending bills that will prevent injustice and discrimination. Governor Frank B. Willis deserves the thanks of the race everywhere for his manly insistence that no discriminatory laws must be passed by the General Assembly of Ohio. The Platt-Ellis bill, which was very obnoxious in its original form, was amended so as to give licenses to chiropodists and masseurs who had been practicing for a period of five years, without taking the prescribed examination, and further amended so as to deny to the State Pedic Society, which had drawn the color line, the right to recommend the examiners. Had the bill passed in its original form it would have put out of business perhaps every colored chiropodist and masseur in the State. The Wickline election bill, to amend Ohio's election laws, provided that voters in registering must declare their color, and this declaration be recorded on the poll books. The colored people made a hard fight against this bill also, and carried it to the governor, who acted, with the result that the word "color" was stricken out on an amendment adopted. The action of the governor respecting these two bills, and his compelling the State Board of Censors to withdraw permit given for the photo-play, "The Nigger," and his assurance that no permit will be given for "The Birth of the Nation," to show in Ohio, has endeared him to every colored person in the State, and impressed them with the fact that Ohio now has a governor of the abolitionist type, who will not tolerate or permit any injustice or discrimintaion against the race. While in some States colored people are powerless to stop the presentation of Tom Dixon's "Birth of the Nation," the colored people of Ohio have had their anxiety regarding the showing of this play in Ohio quieted by the governor's emphatic assurance "It shall not be permitted to show in Ohio."

MASS. PROTESTS VICIOUS MOVIE

Presenting Picture Play In To Governor

OBJECTS TO RACE PLAYS

Governor Walsh Against Play and will Call on Legislature to Enact Law Giving Him Power to Stop Them.

PRESENT LAW INADEQUATE

Tells Colored Delegation that He Would Act Arbitrarily and Forthwith Stop "The Birth of a Nation," but that He Lacks Authority — Advises Appeal to Municipal Court.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

BOSTON, MASS., April 21.—Moving picture plays based on race problems will be barred from presentation in the State of Massachusetts as soon as Governor Walsh can get the State Legislature to pass a law to that effect. The governor is opposed to plays that raise the race question, but cannot act arbitrarily in stopping them because the law at present does not give him the necessary authority.

Several hundred colored men and women appealed to Governor Walsh on Monday, April 19, to stop the vicious picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," now being presented in this city. The colored delegation was reinforced by a large number of representative white citizens, including William D. Brigham, secretary of the Wendell Phillips Memorial Association, Mrs. Josephine Williams, a niece of Wendell Phillips, and Miss Elizabeth Putnam.

The governor advised the delegation to make a formal complaint in the Municipal Court, and said the police commissioner, who was directly responsible, would accept the court's decision.

A bill is already being considered by the Senate which will provide for a board of censors, and which will prevent the showing of any picture in Massachusetts not approved by the censors. The new bill, Senate 202, was adversely reported by the committee on mercantile affairs, but the Senate, by a roll call vote of 32 to 7, substituted a favorable report. The club women of the State are backing the bill.

COLORED PASTOR URGES RESTRAINT

Changes Subject of Sermon and Does Not Mention the Photo-Play.

All was quiet in the South End last night among the negro population, and the "Birth of a Nation" was hardly discussed, due, for the most part, to the Rev. Aaron W. Puller's urgings that all be forgotten until after the interview with Governor Walsh today.

The minister did not give his announced sermon at the Camden street church, "The Outlook for the Negro Race," but, because of the trouble, preached briefly on "The Greatness of Little Things," and did not mention the moving picture at the Tremont.

The pastor was one of the 11 persons arrested at the Tremont Theatre Saturday evening, which, it is charged, negroes in the audience threw an egg on the stage and an acid bomb in the auditorium, and others in the lobby created a disturbance. The complete list of those arrested follows:

William M. Trotter (colored), publisher of the Guardian, charged with disturbance of the peace, bailed in $50 by Simon Washington.

The Rev. Aaron W. Puller (colored), pastor Calvary Baptist Church, charged with disturbance of the peace, bailed in $50 by John M. Burrill, 34 School street.

Joseph Gould, Norwood, charged with assault on an officer, bailed in $100 by Simon Washington.

Fred Banks, Camden street (colored), charge profanity, bailed in $50 by Simon Washington.

John Hines, 8 Concord square (colored), charge sauntering and loitering, bailed by Joshua Crawford.

Charles T. Ray, colored, 815 Tremont street, charge malicious mischief, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

Clar Foskey, colored, Cambridge, charge assault and battery on a police officer, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

Stephen Massey, colored, Cambridge, charge attempt to rescue a prisoner, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

Stephen T. Bivens, colored, Cambridge charge attempt to rescue a prisoner, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

James L. Dunn, colored, West Newton, charge profanity, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

Luginia W. Foster, colored, Grove street, charge, attempt to rescue a prisoner, bailed by Basil F. Hutchins.

"BIRTH OF NATION" LEGAL, SAYS MAYOR

Curley Declares He Has No Power to Deal Further With Problem.

Mayor Curley said last evening: "The unfortunate developments of Saturday night are not for me to pass judgment upon. It is a matter for the police and the courts.

"That the film in question may be an injustice to the sensibilities of the negro has been admitted by me. But I am helpless in any personal desire in the problem. Law is law and must be respected. The law specifies that if the police commissioner and the mayor agree that a show is immoral or obscene, it may be stopped. The police censor and the city's censor have ruled that this performance is neither.

"Accordingly, it can be readily seen that nothing can be done by the mayor unless the law is changed. My personal request has effected several eliminations in the film, but the attorney for the producer now asserts that no further requests will be complied with. The situation is unfortunate, but in accordance with the present laws."

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REPORT PROTEST MADE

Negroes Await Mayor's Action on "Birth of a Nation".

Reports of the committee which presented the protest to Mayor Keller against the showing of the "Birth of a Nation" film in this city were heard at a meeting of colored people Monday night in the Colored Knights of Pythias' hall on N. Main st. Although the mayor has taken no definite action ,it was the opinion of the committee that he was favorably impressed.

Although few of the local colored people have seen the picture, their objection is based on the action of Dr. W. E. B. Dubois, editor of "The Crisis," who protested against the film.

NEGRO AGAIN MOVIE CRITIC.

Merit Body Reinstates A. J. Bowling, Dismissed from Film Censors as "Unfit."

The civil service commission yesterday reinstated Alonzo J. Bowling, negro, as a member of the moving picture censorship board. He was first certified March 13 of this year and then discharged April 12 for "temperamental unfitness." State Senator Harding, Ald. De Priest, and the Rev. A. J. Carey urged his reappointment.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

N. Y. Ev. Mail

April

MAYOR SENDS BELL TO CENSOR 'NEGRO MOVIE'

Producers Fight Move to Halt Production—Big Delegation Calls on Mitchel.

Martin W. Littleton, backed up by G. W. Griffith, producer of the motion picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," and Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," on which the film play was founded, to-day appealed to Mayor Mitchel against the attack made by the National Association for Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Littleton charged that if there was a riot because of certain features in the production it would be a simulated and a stimulated riot.

The upshot was the mayor instructed Commissioner Bell, of the bureau of licenses, to sit through a running of the film and indicate to Griffiths and Dixon just what ought to be cut out to meet the wishes of the administration and placate negro protestants.

Delegation at City Hall.

A big delegation descended on City Hall to-day on receiving word that if objectionable scenes were not deleted the theatre license would be revoked and to-night's performance stopped.

Clergymen, fiction writers, dramatists formed the large crowd that piled into the mayor's reception room. The Rev. Thomas B. Gregory, Rupert Hughes, May Wilson Preston and Lillian Gish, who plays the part of Elsie in the scenes complained of, were prominent in the throng.

Mr. Littleton told the mayor the association back of the agitation against the production has had the case under a summons in the Jefferson Market Court since January, and only to-day, when the case was again called, an adjournment was secured by the complainants.

Mr. Littleton insisted the place to try this case was in a court of law and that the matter had been threshed out before Chief Magistrate McAdoo, who decided he could not interfere with the production, and read Mayor Gaynor's opinion on the Irish Players, producing the "Playboy of the Western World."

Want to Reduce Dispute.

"No claim has been made that the play is immoral or indecent," said Mr. Littleton. "They do say it is provocative and outrageous. The question for us to consider here is how far it is the desire of the government to control or stop this play. We want to reduce the area of dispute."

The attorney charged that the association is the same organization that boasts in its annual report of 1914 over the signature of Oswald Garrison Villard, of having defeated anti-marriage laws in Ohio, New York, Wisconsin and other states. On this point he said:

"They have openly come out in defense of Jack Johnson and the Cameron girl, and our play is a protest against mongrel mixture of black and white."

Mr. Dixon, who followed, was so bitter in his denunciation of the opponents that the mayor urged him to refrain from personalities. He said:

"Oswald Garrison Villard, the Don
Director of Public Safety W. H
Bartlett to order its discontinuance.

Director Bartlett said he had not seen the show and asked that the matter be referred to him with power to act. Finally the Mayor withdrew his resolution and on Commissioner Bacharach's motion the matter was left with Mr. Bartlett.

Muttering of the Colored Effective.

Yesterday Director Bartlett attended a performance of the show himself. He decided, in view of the muttering of the storm brewing among the Colored people, that the play was not a safe one to be continued.

(From Atlantic Review.)

State Overturns Victory.

In last Sunday's paper appeared the following notice of defeat:

Following the receipt of a peremptory order from Director of Public Safety William H. Bartlett, that the photo-drama, "The Birth of a Nation," must be discontinued after next Monday at the New Nixon theatre, because of a mighty protest lodged by Negroes of the resort before the City Commissioners, counsel for Samuel F. Nixon, owner of the playhouse hurried to Trenton yesterday morning and applied to Chancellor Walker for an injunction restraining the police from enforcing the closing order.

Chancellor Walker granted the injunction prohibiting the City of Atlantic City, the Director of Public Safety and the Chief of Police from interfering in any way with the presentation of "The Birth of a Nation" at the New Nixon theatre.

This action of the Chancellor puts a stop to the efforts made to close the New Nixon theatre, and renders null and void the order sent by Director of Public Safety William H. Bartlett, to Manager Harry Brown, Manager of the New Nixon, which read:

Real Fight by Colored Would Make Difference.

Fears of "race violence" expressed by Director Bartlett are ridiculed by local amusement interests. It is charged that the sudden decision to wind up the performance which has now run four weeks without the slightest semblance of disorder, is designed solely as a political vote catching move.

Compromise of Cutting Two Scenes.

The notice of the compromise which is only better than elsewhere because the Lynch as well as the Gus scene is to be cut, was made in today's paper as follows:

Protests sounded by the Colored people of this city against the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," now being shown at the New Nixon theatre, may be satisfactorily adjusted as the result of an hour conference held yesterday between prominent Colored clergymen of the city and Samuel F. Nixon, owner of the theatre, and Harry Brown, manager.

The clergymen at the conference included Rev. William M. Langford of the M. E church, Rev. Charles V. Douglas, Second Baptist church; Rev. Jeremiah Gregory, Union Baptist Temple, and Rev. E. M. Clark, Jefro Presbyterian church.

While the ministers agreed that the picture was most artistic and wonderful, they suggested the elimination of only two brief scenes in order the delete it of any tendency toward the fomenting of race hatred. Messrs. Nixon and Brown assured the delegation that they would meet them half way and comply with any suggestion in reason. Another conference was arranged for and it is believed that all the differences will be satisfactorily adjusted before the beginning of next week.

Frank Case Used.

The Associated Press report added this:

"What stronger argument could we have at this time than the terrible thing which happened in Georgia?" said the Rev. E. M. Clark of Jericho Presbyterian church. "These same people lynch our people in Southland on the flimsiest evidence."

(Special to the Chicago Defender.)

Philadelphia, Pa., Sept. 24.—Similar scenes to those of Boston, Mass., when William Monroe Trotter and the liberty-loving people of the Quaker City objected to the showing of "The Birth of a Nation" and a riot took place there, were enacted here Sunday night, only a thousand times worse. After pleas of all kinds failed to stop the play, after petitions were made to the mayor and chief of police and the governor of the state failed, the proprietors of the theater took matters in their own hands and allowed the play to be shown. It was billed at the Forest Avenue Theater. When the doors were opened thousands of people crowded at the theater to see if the race really meant to show its backbone and resent the disgraceful play.

Wild Scenes Enacted.

Five thousand members of the race, old and young, went to the theater and demanded that the play be stopped. Policemen were called and a riot call was sent to the nearest station. There was a general melee. Policemen beat women of the race, and men of the race took part in the fight, and never before in the history of this city was there such a riot. Broad street for squares presented scenes similar to those of the early revolution, and men fought with sticks, clubs and revolvers. Every young man of the race showed his true manhood by protecting the women. The charge of the police followed the throwing of bricks in the theater. White men who were sympathizers of the race took a part in the battle. Policemen were knocked to the ground, stamped, and sent to the hospital and nearby drugstores. The fight did not last long, but the race got the best of the battle.

Second Disturbance Follows.

When members of the race saw how the policemen had beaten up their women their blood boiled, and another riot took place at Walnut and Broad streets. A man threw a brick and struck a policeman on the head, and he tumbled over for dead. Other policemen were seriously hurt. There was no such thing as fleeing, each man of the race standing to his guns like their fathers in the civil war. They felt it was a matter of race loyalty; that they would no longer bear to see their race humiliated by Griffin and his ilk for money; that race prejudice would not be augmented by such a play as "The Birth of a Nation."

Front of Theater Demolished.

The front of the Forest Theater was completely demolished. Hundreds of dollars of damage was done. The fight is not over, as members of the race have determined that if the play continues to be seen here they will do the same thing over again.

Many Sympathizers.

The race had many sympathizers. Hundreds of white friends who had tried in vain to interest the mayor and chief of police to stop the play were loyal sympathizers. Many encouraged the race to show its manhood in resenting such an ignominious performance as "The Birth of a Nation."

Philadelphia Disgraced.

The city of Philadelphia, known as the "City of Brotherly Love," has disgraced itself and now belongs in the category of southern cities by allowing such a play to bring such disgraceful scenes as were enacted a few nights ago. Efforts are now being made by the best people of both races to see that the play is immediately stopped and that no such plays as "The Birth of a Nation" are shown here. From the bravery and heroism exhibited by Philadelphia men and women and the broken bones, cut faces and gashes given the officers of the law, there is no likelihood of the play or any of its kind having any success here.

Officials Now Regret.

The governor of the state, the mayor of the city and the chief of police are now regretting they did not hear the pleadings of those of the race who urged that the horrible libelous photoplay was an insult to every Afro-American.

Play Now Off the Boards.

Since the race will not stand for the play the officials have now ordered it off the boards. The melee was a lesson to the Afro-Americans of Chicago who have allowed the play to be shown with no protest whatever. The play began at the Illinois Theater early in the summer and ran successfully for three months, and is now showing at the Colonial Theater. Philadelphia has taught the Chicago race leaders a lesson. The battle cry of the Afro-American is Philadelphia, not Chicago.

Philadelphia, the most peace-loving city in the nation, becomes a scene of lawlessness! The attempt to show the picture drama, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Forrest Theater here was the occasion for the assembling of thousands of orderly and peace-loving Afro-Americans, who protested in lawful manner against its exhibition and made every effort in name of law and decency to protect themselves against the pernicious influence of the display. The crowd assembled with the attempt of its initial display and subsequently aroused indignation found its clamoring in the attempt to do by force and violence that which is the law's right to exercise. It is the

legal duty of those who are intrusted with the law to exercise their power, not only in suppressing disorder, but to prevent its occurrence. This sneering neglect to protect the rights of Afro-Americans is manifested everywhere. If

(Continued

BOOKER WASHINGTON AND "THE CLANSMAN."

To the Editor: Kindly allow me space in your excellent paper to give a statement from Booker T. Washington, in regards to "The Clansman." Rev. Campbell of the Congregational church, Thirty-sixth and Grove streets, delivered a lecture recently as to his opinion as to what Booker T. Washington would say in regard to "The Clansman." Three days afterwards Dr. Booker T. Washington sent out a statement to the colored papers and the world in general. I quote a part of it that the public may fully know and feel as we of the colored race feel towards the film.

"Tuskegee Institute, Alabama,
"May 21, 1915.

"Editor of the Defender: I wish to urge our people everywhere to take time by the forelock and adopt in advance such measures as will prevent the production of the photoplay "The Birth of a Nation" in any community, north or south.

"In each town where there is a possibility of this play being put on, it would be well to have a committee of citizens representing the churches, the schools and the business men take the initiative in lodging a suitable objection. The play is fundamentally wrong in that it attempts to deal with the development of America since the abolition of slavery by ignoring the substantial progress of the negro race and emphasizing the cruel misunderstandings of the readjustment period in which unfortunate individuals of both races figured.

"No matter how many other artistic and historic features the play may have, its ultimate result will be to intensify race prejudice and thereby do great and lasting harm to both races.

"BOOKER T. WASHINGTON."

It may be of interest to the reading public to know that Major R. R. Jackson, representative in the Illinois Legislature from the third district, has just succeeded in introducing and have passed by a vote of 110 to 2, a bill to prevent the production of such films. The first section of the bill reads as follows:

"Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, that any corporation, person or combination of persons who shall advertise, publish, present or exhibit or cause to be advertised, published, presented, or exhibited or cause to be exhibited in any public place in this State any lithograph, drawing, picture play drama or sketch that tends to incite race riot, or race hatred or that shall represent or purport to represent any hanging, lunching or burning of any human being encite by race hatred shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and fined not less than $200 nor more than $1000 for each offense."

This bill is known as House bill No. 131

At the last session of the Senate of Ohio a law was passed similar in effect.

D. L. BEASLY,

Berkeley, May 25. 1915

thinkers and writers by the score have pronounced this pictorial story of the civil war and reconstruction period a true and faithful history of the times." I challenge the statement and challenge Mr. Bowles to publish a list of these great people. The one quotation he makes is from a Hearst newspaper man.

One example of the opposite sort can be given by a noted writer of history, Professor Albert Bushnell Hart of Harvard University. He says: "One of the most telling scenes in 'The Birth of a Nation' never happened during reconstruction. The pictures which I saw depict a company of United States soldiers in uniform commanded by a white officer taking possession of a town and shooting down white people for no offense whatever, running amuck up and down the streets and behaving like fiends. I take it on myself confidently to assert that such an incident never happened in one single solitary instance."

Professor Hart also said: "The result, or at least the effort, of the show is substantially to make out that the negroes were then and are now a class so inhumanly criminal that something violent ought to be done to them—they ought to be suppressed, they ought to be dealt with in some new fashion. I protest against that as I would protest against any similar attempt to vilify the Irish or the Germans or the Slays or the Scandinavians, or any other race that rests within the United States."

Abundant evidence from the highest sources can be given to show the absurdity of the effort to glorify the infamous Ku-Klux Klan.

Mr. Bowles says that my comments sifted down reach the negro question and the ultimate object of the professional negro champion is always the same—"not love for the black man, but love for his vote." The writer is a minister nearly 75 years old and has never sought white or black votes and is not likely to begin now.

I have the honor to be a trustee of the Provident Hospital and Training School for colored nurses and am associated with some of the ablest colored professional and business men of Chicago.

These men are agreed that "The Birth of a Nation" is the most insidious and

Dispatching His Agents of Anti-Race Propoganda West With Personal Letters to Mayors, One of Which Was Sent to Mitchell, Southern Renegade Rails Against Race—The N. A. A. C. P. Citizens' Club and United Civic League Make Stirring Demonstration.

Never before in the history of New York city have so many intelligent colored and white people assembled to lodge a protest with New York city's officials against an injustice to the race as they did when, last Tuesday at noon, hundreds and hundreds of New York's leading citizens assembled in the Board of Estimate room of the City Hall to protest to the Mayor against the production of the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," based upon Thomas A. Dixon's book, "The Clansman." The leading civic organizations, the Citizens' Club, the United Civic League and Jersey Committee of 100, all churches, the N. A. A. C. P. were represented and editors, ministers, business men, laymen and women were present to impress the fact upon the Mayor that a gross injustice would be done the race if the production is allowed to continue, and would inevitably lead to race riots throughout the city and country.

At the conclusion of the hearing Mayor Mitchel announced that he, through his Commissioner of Licenses, had expressed his opinion of the film to the management, and was assured that the objectionable scenes in it would be cut out.

Dr. J. E. Spingarn, chairman of the board of directors of the N. A. A. C. P., which headed the delegation, was the first speaker. He called to the Mayor's attention the action of the Mayors of Philadelphia and Boston, who have already put the production under the ban.

Frederic C. Howe, Commissioner of Immigration and chairman of the National Board of Censorship, appeared unofficially to protest against the production and stated that it falsely portrayed the colored man as a lustful, brutal creature, and would surely have a bad effect upon both races if permitted to continue.

Rabbi Stephen S. Wise told the Mayor very pointedly that if it is true that the Mayor has no power to stop this loathsome libel on a race of human beings, then it is true that the Government has broken down. He characterised the Board of Censors as being worse than stupid in permitting such a film to bear their approval and expressed the belief that the Police Commissioner and Board of Licenses had power to prevent its being shown on the screen. "No race," he said, "would endure such a wrong," and in conclusion assured the Mayor that he would do a great and abiding service if he would stop the play.

Rev. W. H. Brooks, pastor of St. Mark's M. E. Church, recalled to the mind of the Mayor the statement made in his church during the Mayoralty campaign as to his attitude toward the race. "No man," he said further, "can witness the photo-play at the Liberty Theatre without feeling racial antagonism."

Miss Lillian D. Wald, a very prominent white woman, in a clear and pleading voice, appealed to the Mayor to stop the production upon the ground that it was impossible to measure its dangers. She further insisted that it is not historically true.

"I place my protest," said Oswald Garrison Villard, chairman of the N. A. A. C. P.," upon the belief that the play is immoral, improper and unjust."

W. E. B. Du Bois, editor of the "Crisis," advanced the belief that it is a determined attempt to stir up race prejudice in this country.

Geo. E. Wibecan, chairman of the Brooklyn Citizens' Club, told the Mayor that the production is a distorted, foul lie. As an example of the effect the play has upon an audience, Mr. Wibecan stated that as he was leaving the theatre after witnessing the play he overheard a white woman ask her comrade, "Why should Niggers live?"

Fred R. Moore recited in glorious terms the civil, political and financial status of the colored people in New York city, and among other things, said: "We have never been beggars. We have never asked charity. All we have asked is a fair chance. We don't stoop to anarchy.

"We never had a man among us who fired on the President of the United States. We never had a man among us who attempted to assassinate the Mayor of this city."

At this point the large room rocked with cheers and the Mayor was compelled to rap for order.

He intimated the attitude that would be taken by the race if the film is not stopped when he said, "Patience sometimes ceases."

At the conclusion of the hearing Mayor Mitchel said that he was glad to receive the commission, and was greatly impressed by the objections made to the production. He further stated that he had taken action on what he saw at the theatre when he witnessed the play, and that the two objectionable scenes would be cut from it for the first time Tuesday.

Tuesday evening at the Liberty Theatre it was said that no final agreement had been reached, which is directly contrary to the Mayor's statement made to the delegation a few hours previous. A further conference was held yesterday, at which to "tone down" of the film will be discussed. The worst scene in the play, however, the one in which a colored man is pictured pursuing a white girl, is not to be conceded.

PROTESTS FILM PLAY TO CENSORS

Faneuil Hall Meeting Adopts Resolutions on Matter

Resolutions declaring that the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," teaches race prejudice, falsifies the Reconstruction, is but a step from "that brutal tyranny when men were slaughtered to make a Roman holiday," and petitioning the Boston Board of Censors to stop the play, were adopted in Faneuil Hall yesterday afternoon by 800 colored people, meeting under the auspices of the New Public Opinion Club.

The resolutions will be sent to the censorship board. As read from the stage by Forrester B. Washington, president of the club, a Harvard Business School man, they are:

TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS

"Colored Americans assembled under the auspices of the New Public Opinion Club on Memorial Sunday to be addresed by Dr. W. E. Burghardt DuBois on 'Fifty Years of Negro Freedom' in Faneuil Hall, sacred edifice which, as Boston's present Mayor rightly says, stands against prejudice, contempt, injustice and enslavement for race, petitions the Boston Censor Board to stop the photoplay, 'Birth of a Nation,' which teaches race prejudice, racial injustice, racial disfranchisement against colored Americans, falsifying reconstruction.

"From Faneuil Hall itself we protest the proposition that the pictured slander and disparagement of a minority race shall make the public licensed amusement for the rest of the people. This is but a step from that brutal tyranny when men were slaughtered to make a Roman holiday."

Endangers Free Speech

Dr. William E. Burghardt DuBois, Ph. D., author of "The Souls of Black Folk" and director of publicity and research of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, who addresesd the meeting on "Truth About Reconstruction," said that he has sympathy with those who protest against stopping such plays as "The Birth of a Nation" on the ground that it endangers free speech and expression of opinion, but he declared that in this particular instance one of the parties to the discussion is bound and gagged by disfranchisement and by an extraordinary state of public opinion.

"If the people who are anxious for a free discussion of the part the negro took in United States history, then it is the business of those people to see that the negro has the right to vote and to express himself in a free way," said Dr. DuBois.

NEGROES PROTEST FILM.

NEW YORK, May 4— D. W. Griffith and H. E. Aitkin, managers of the film play, "The Birth of a Nation," appeared in court today for a hearing to decide whether or not the portrayal of the film may continue. The National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People has invoked the law in an effort to bar the sensational dramatization of "The Clansman."

Face Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

Philadelphia Public Ledger

GOV. DAVID I. WALSH,
Of Mass—Who made Great Stand against "Birth of a Nation," as creating race prejudice and backed law to stop it.

SOMETHING in the nature of a reply to "The Birth of a Nation" will be found this week at People's Theatre, in the production of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," a new play concerning the South before the war, by the rising young playwright, Harriet Beecher Stowe. This was popularly supposed to be its first performance on any stage, but upon close inquiry it was discovered that it has been done before and by some very prominent players. Wilton Lackaye, J. H. Stoddard and W. J. Le Moyne have been some of the Uncle Toms; Lotta played Topsy when she was 18; Effie Ellsler was a little Eva at the age of 5, while George Fox played Phineas before he began delighting the youngsters as Humpty Dumpty. J. H. Hackett, father of James K., was still another who used to shine in the play.

The work was given its first English production at the Manchester Theatre in 1853 and the same year it was seen in Paris at the Opera Comique—of all places. Translations into Italian, Portuguese and German followed. Only recently it has found its way into the "movies."

FOLLOWING the suggestion made by many persons who during the last four seasons have enjoyed George Arliss' delightful portrayal of "Disraeli," that he make that play's successor another stage portrait of some celebrity, he has decided to do so. He has chosen a just completed work by Edward Knoblauch called "Paganini," founded upon events—some of them supposititious, to be sure—in the life of the celebrated violinist. For some time it was expected that Mr. Arliss would appear in a play with Nero as its chief figure, but he relinquished this idea, it is said, when he realized that his public would be hard put to it to accept a whitewashed Nero, for the play presented the Emperor in a far different light from that thrown upon him by vulgar history.

Race Problem - 1915
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KANSAS WILL FIGHT "BIRTH OF A NATION!"

The Topeka Plaindealer
3/3/16.

Attorney General Brewster Declares Tom Dixon's Photo Play "Immoral *and* Not True to History."

Dr. Gordon Joins the Chorus--Eloquent Topeka Divine Flayed the Picture in a Masterly Sermon Sunday.

In a fourteen page typewritten statement S. M. Brewster, as attorney general, declared that the "Birth of a Nation" film, displayed before state censors and newspaper men in Topeka recently, is immoral, a slander on the character of public men of civil war times and is not true to history. The Brewster statement is an answer in a suit pending in the district court testing the right of the state censors and appeal board in rejecting the picture.

Brewster's statement is a bitter indictment of the famous film. I challenges every allegation in the petition of the picture producers and declares that the result of the picture can be but to "slander and villify the Negro race and the Union soldiers of the civil war, to create race prejudice, engender hatred, passion, strife, and to provoke disorder, assaults, and even murder." The Brewster reply in the case is the state's official condemnation of the picture which has occasioned nation-wide discussion and will be used by the state in an effort to keep the picture out of Kansas.

"Said photo-play is immoral in that it purports to represent historical facts; it is on the whole false and untrue, and made false and untrue maliciously and deliberately for the purpose of slandering and maligning the Negro race," declares Brewster in his ansewr.

ATTACKS THE NAME.

Then the attorney general discusses at length the issues as to the hitorical value of the picture. Even the name of the photo-play is attacked by Brewster in his answer.

"The inference from the title is that the nation had its birth from the conditions depicted in said play and such scenes must therefore be depicted as typical and not as extraordinary," urges the attorney general. "The inference from said title is that the nation had its birth from the acts of the Ku-Kux-Klan, an unlawful aggregation of outlaws and criminals and murderers, who are depicted in said photo-play as in all instances in the right, and from the nefarious acts of the senators and other officials and representatives of the federal government in the north, whose acts are shown to be influenced by the basest motives. That almost without exception the northern soldiers are depicted as 'scalawags' or brutes, while the southern soldiers are depicted as the flower of chivalry."

Brewster attacks the scenes showing an attack on a white girl by a Negro, the picture of a northern mulatto in his effort to force a marriage with a white girl, and other sections of the sensational film. These scenes, he declares, tend to but arouse strife and race feeling and are not true to history.

OBJECTS TO K. K. K.

Ku-Klux-Klan scenes are also objectionable to Brewster.

"The said photo-play is further untrue," argues the attorney general, "that it pictures the Ku-Klux-Klan as an organizaion of high minded gallant southern gentlemen bent only on missions of mercy, protection and justice, although history and the records of the United States courts prove them to have been in many instances bands of midnight assassins, abusing and murdering defenseless Negroes by the hundreds, there having been over two thousand instances of cold-blooded murder by this organization."

SLANDER ON STEVENS.

Again Brewster is aroused to wrath in the scene showing a designing northern senator. This picture, Brewster declares, is a slanderous representation of the life and acts of Thaddeus Stevens.

"Said picture," Brewster continues, "is further untrue to history in that it represents a northern senator who, from physical and facial appearances, from his clubbed foot and connection with events portrayed, as well as from admissions of those in charge of the exhibition of said play, is Thaddeus Stevens. That as Thaddeus Stevens is intended by this representation, it is slanderous, not only from the representations of his life and acts which it shows, inasmuch as it shows him living openly and notoriously with a mulatto mistress and advocating mixed marriages, and as refusing to let his daughter marry a mulatto, while as a matter of fact the said Thaddeus Stevens was never married and never had a daughter."

The attorney general quotes from a number of newspaper and magazine articles as well as statements from public men, in his argument for a ban on the "Birth of a Nation" picture in this state. He also quotes historical references concerning events surrounding the civil war and reconstruction period and uses historical references in his effort to discredit the pictures shown in the famous film.

Dr. Gordan's Sermon.

"It is a man's job the churches have on their hands in counteracting the work of those who, for financial gain, are trying to bring on a revival of race hatred," the Rev. Robert Gordon, pastor of the First Baptist church, asserted in his sermon Sunday night.

The Rev. Mr. Gordon's sermon was concerning the Rev. Charles M. Sheldon's new book, "Of One Blood," and in it he included a discussion of the causes of race troubles and mentioned the film, "The Birth of a Nation," whose owners are now attempting to compel the state of Kansas to permit it to be shown within the state. Mr. Gordon called the picture "a lie."

GOOD QUALITIES IN EVERY RACE.

"In every race," Mr. Gordon said, "there are qualities, beauties and powers which command respect. And fundamentally, we are more alike than most men realize. Our differences are superficial. They lie mostly or largely in the pigment of the skin."

Mr. Gordon also made a comparison of Dr. Sheldon and Thomas Dixon, Jr., author of "The Clansman," the story of which is a large part of the "Birth of a Nation" film.

Mr. Gordon said in part:

"'Of One Blood,' by Charles M. Sheldon, is a fine antidote to the Ku-Klux-Klan virus Dixon is injecting into the veins of our national life. It is an alluring, thrilling story that should be and, I believe, will be widely read. When so many are engaged in the diabolical business of sowing suspicions, we should be particularly grateful for the appearance of a book which so powerfully moves readers toward an understanding of the folly and wickedness of stirring up class hatred. This story will certainly quicken and create more kindly feeling toward men of other races.

UGLINESS OF RACE PREJUDICE

"It is your business and mine to help see that it is very widely read. We have a man's job on our hands in opposing and counteracting the work of those who for financial gain

or for any other reason are trying to bring on a revival of racial hatred. To dispel class bitterness, prejudice and arrogance and to inculcate reverence for personality as such, is no easy undertaking. But that must be done. There lies the hope of civilization.

"With the pen of a realist, Doctor Sheldon has depicted the cruelty and ugliness of race prejudice and its progeny. The world war, largely occasioned by unreasoning prejudice, is so put before us that all the sham glory is swept away and one sees and feels the awful horors of bayoneted men and blood-soaked battlefields. The story closes with a stirring description of a great student volunteer convention. There delegates from all islands meet in heartiest concord. Russian and German, French and Austrian, Micronesian and African unite in singing, "Faith to Our Fathers, Holy Faith." They are met together to plan for the uplift of the world. It is Dr. Sheldon's conviction that the religious solution is the only solution. He writes, 'If all the white men in the United States were like Abraham Lincoln and all the black men were like Booker Washington, there would be no danger of race hatred.' Of course he is right, and in the light of that fact we see our duty.

ART OF LIVING TOGETHER.

"The art of living together is the most delicate and difficult to master, but it will be mastered. The divorce court and other courts are sufficient evidence that even white people, with all our boasted superiority, do not find it easy to live together in peace.

"When black men and brown men and white men meet, there will always be need for patience and forbearance. But that lesson will be learned. And the day of right relationships is greatly hastened by books like this which make clear the fact that there are no inferior peoples.

There are none upon whom we may rightfully look with contempt. In every race there are qualities, beauties and powers which command respect. And fundamentally we are more alike than most men realize. Our differences are superficial. They lie mostly or largely in the pigment of the skin.

SLANDER OF "BIRTH OF A NATION."

"Against the wicked slanders of 'The Birth of a Nation' put the spirit of this book. I understand the mood of those who applaud the brave clansmen who ride through the night. But I do not applaud, for that picture is a lie.

"Against it put a page from actual history. While the white men of the South were in battle line, the black men at home outnumbered the whites twenty to one. How did they conduct themselves in that hour when power was in their hands? You know.

"The black slave became a sentinel and walked up and down before his mistress' window, or slept like a watchdog before her door to guard her peace. Read the record of fidelity. Reflect upon it and you will enlist tonight against the enemies of the republic who would set class against class, and race against race, and who instead of neighborliness and good will, would arm men with razors, guns and blazing torches."

"BIRTH OF A NATION" BOILED DOWN

Objectionable Parts That Might Have Caused a Riot or Cast Reflections on the Race Were Eliminated from the Photo Lie.

(Special to Chicago Defender.)

St. Paul, Minn., Nov. 5.—"The Birth of a Nation" continues at the Auditorium, but with the elimination of the most offensive scenes. This concession was obtained through the efforts of representative citizens who took the matter before the city council. After many able addresses from representatives both of St. Paul and Minneapolis the council decided that the management cut out certain scenes or the license would be revoked. They agreed to the cut. One misguided Negro (supposed to be in the employ of the film company) spoke in favor of the picture showing in its entirety as beneficial to the race. This Judas, we are pleased to say, does not belong to St. Paul; and had it not been for police officers who rescued him from the irate colored citizens he would at this time be a most fitting representative for "The End of a Nation."

Mrs. T. H. Lyles of St. Anthony avenue, as well as many other ladies, attended the hearing of the council in regard to the suppression of the objectionable films. Mayor Powers personally asked Mrs. Lyles for an expression of her views on the subject, and, being fully equipped for such work through her years of training on the lecture platform, she ably responded. Mrs. Lyles can always be depended upon to be found along the firing line when the interest of the race is at stake.

HELD FOR FILM PLAY ROW.

White Man to Be Tried for Disturbance at "Birth of a Nation."

The case against the white man who created a disturbance at last night's performance of the film-play "The Birth of a Nation," at the Liberty Theatre, has been set for trial to-morrow evening in the Night Court. The offender, Howard Schaeffle, twenty years old, of 123 Washington Place, who said he was a reporter was arraigned before Magistrate Ten Eyck last night and held in $500 bail. Schaeffle said that he was born in Maryland and had come to this city recently from Boston. He declared that he had acted as he did because he couldn't sit quietly and see negroes maligned as they were in the film. He threw two eggs which landed among the orchestra, and the police found three more in his pockets.

Although Schaeffle was the only man arrested, there was plenty of evidence that a number of other persons were present in the theatre who did not approve of the way in which the Negro was depicted in certain incidents. One man, a negro, who said his name was Cleveland G. Allen, head of a Negro news agency, rose after Schaeffle had been led from the theatre by private detectives and called out loudly:

"On the anniversary of Lincoln's assassination, it is inappropriate to present a play that libels 10,000,000 loyal American negroes. I think President Lincoln wouldn't have liked this play."

Allen was ushered to the street by employees of the theatre without being arrested. Several other men, some of them white and some colored, also got up and left. A group of negroes escorted Schaeffle to the West 37th Street police station, whence he was taken to the Night Court. James T. Thomas, jr., a negro lawyer of 203 Broadway, volunteered his services as counsel for Schaeffle.

NEGRO FILM PLAY UNFIT, MAYOR SAYS

Managers Protest, but Mitchel Insists That Race Appeal Features Be Elided.

Because the manager of the Liberty Theatre has been informed by Commissioner Bell of the License Department that he was not satisfied with the elisions that had been made in the moving picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," which deals with the negro race problem, a delegation called on Mayor Mitchel yesterday to protest against any further cuts. It included D. W. Griffith, who put the play in picture form; Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," the original play, and Martin W. Littleton, counsel for the theatre managers.

"My mind is quite free," said the Mayor at the end of the hearing. "I have seen the play. If it were, as you suggest, merely an argument against the marriage of blacks and whites, it might be a different question. But there are two scenes that go further and appeal to race prejudice. I feel that these scenes ought to be modified."

The Mayor suggested that Commissioner Bell and Deputy Commissioner Kaufmann might see the play again, and then come to an agreement about further cuts.

"From its misleading title to its sacreligious ending it is an offense to the decent people of this community, and a gratuitous insult to our law-abiding and self-respecting colored citizens," wrote Miss Rosalie N. Jones, the suffragist, to the Mayor, and added she wished to "protest both as a Southern woman and a citizen of New York." Accompanying the letter was a protest against the play from fifty well known suffragists.

Magistrate McQuade, in the Jefferson Market Court, yesterday adjourned for a week the hearing in the complaint against "The Birth of a Nation," pending negotiations with Mayor Mitchel.

The Hayti Protectorate

Some time ago our new treaty or convention with Hayti was approved by a large majority in Hayti's Chamber of Deputies, but approval by the Senate was delayed. A Senate committee appointed to consider the question recommended that action be postponed. Last week, however, the Senate rejected the committee's report and ratified the treaty by a vote of 26 to 7. The agreement thus officially approved virtually establishes a United States protectorate for Hayti. It places the management of the customs revenue in the hands of American officers, provides for the counsel and aid of American experts in the general financial administration, and requires Hayti to maintain a constabulary force commanded by American officers. Its term is ten years, and it may be renewed. In December, President Wilson will ask our Senate to ratify it.

Until action is taken at Washington, our Government's course in Hayti will be in accord with the policy already shown. Our marines will control the custom houses and all the principal towns, and will be employed in patrol work elsewhere. Opposition to the Government is now confined to a few guerrilla.

NEGROES OBJECT TO FILM

Ask Mayor Powers to Prohibit Showing of "The Nigger" at Local Movie Theater.

Protest was made to Mayor Powers today against the proposed production of a motion picture film called "The Nigger," at Starland theater, by Dr. V. D. Turner of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The protest was made on the ground that the production of the film might stir up ill-feeling. The film was prohibited in Minneapolis.

Henry McColl, commissioner of public safey, to whom the matter was referred by Mayor Powers, conferred today with B. R. Blotcky, manager of the theater. He assured Mr. McColl that the film is not offensive to the colored race.

The film will not be stopped here unless the opposition persists after the contents of the story is known.

APPRECIATES DEFENSE OF NEGRO

To the Editor of THE KNICKERBOCKER PRESS

Sir: I read your editorial comment this morning on the moving picture play, "The Birth of a Nation," with a great deal of interest and satisfaction. It is, indeed, gratifying to the members of my race in the city of Albany to see the stand you have taken respecting this play whose purpose it is to misrepresent the negro and thereby excite hatred between his race and the white. It is significant to us to have an organ with the influence of your paper speak out in such certain tones in its editorials in our defense.

It is unfortunate that while the best citizens of both races, north and south, are spending so much time and money trying to adjust the relationship between the races and cement lasting friendship among all of the race elements, their efforts should be hampered and their work to an extent counteracted by such race hating individuals as are identified with "The Birth of a Nation."

If your paper voices the sentiments of the best citizens of Albany (and I am sure it does), it will be impossible for "The Birth of a Nation" to be exhibited in this city.

J. O. THOMAS,
Field Secretary of the Tuskegee Institute.
Albany, Sept. 13.

Race Problem – 1915

Moving Pictures

WHEN JUSTICE GETS A HEARING

Major R. R. Jackson, one of the colored members of the Illinois legislature, succeeded in having a bill passed by that body barring such moving pictures in that state as "The Nigger," "The Clansman," "The Birth of a Nation." We are made to feel that justice is having a hearing. No one can read his earnest and eloquent appeal for justice for his race, without readily seeing what it means to us also to have representatives in our state legislatures and even our city government, who feel as we feel, who think as we think, who suffer as we suffer.

It is stated that the white members of that body say that they see the justice of having a colored man in the legislative body as they never saw it before. When justice gets a hearing, there will be others of our race in other legislative halls, pleading the cause of a people that needs representation.

HUNDREDS HEAR PLEA FOR NEGRO

HEARING ON BILL TO BAR RACE PLAYS

"The Birth of a Nation" Scored, but Speakers Disagree as to Law

Legislation that will vest in the district police the power to stop such motion picture dramas as "The Birth of a Nation" instead of the police commissioner of Boston, was urged at the public hearing yesterday on the Sullivan motion picture censorship bill before the Committee on Judiciary.

Hundreds of persons, black and white, were in the large committee room to listen to Moorfield Storey, Lieut.-Gov. Cushing, Dr. Francis H. Rowley, J. M. Hallowell and others denounce "The Birth of a Nation" as a vilification of the negro race, and urge a change in the law so that competent authorities may be given power to stop the performance.

The Sullivan bill adds to the statute of 1910 a clause that will permit the barring of plays that tend to rouse race or religious prejudice. This is not entirely satisfactory to the negroes, and through Butler R. Wilson, their attorney, they submitted a redraft.

Not All Agreed on Form

The redraft would take the power from the police commissioner and give it to the chief of the district police, although power would also be left with the mayor of Boston to stop the offending plays immediately. They claimed that the present law for joint action by the mayor and police commissioner had the effect of making the law inoperative.

They also charged that the construction put upon the law by both the police commissioner and the mayor is so narrow that it also destroys the effectiveness of the law. Obscenity and immorality named in the law, they said, was uniformly construed by these officials as meaning sexual immorality.

However, the proponents of the legislation were not all agreed on just what form the law should take. Moorfield Storey was in favor of a state-wide law that would permit the Mayor to revoke the license and stop plays immediately, but at the same time protecting the property and capital of the men producing the play. However, he would not allow them to go to court on the question of stopping the play.

McCall Scores Teachings

A letter was read from ex-Congressman Samuel W. McCall, who was unable to be present. The letter dwelt on the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," rather than any law. It read:

"I very much regret that I cannot be at the hearing tomorrow, but I have speaking engagements at Yale University today and tomorrow and cannot break them. I have not seen the "Birth of a Nation" film, but if as reported to me on excellent authority it palliates the Ku-Klux Clan and insults and reviles a race comprising 100,000,000 of our population it should not be permitted to be exhibited.

"As to the Ku-Klux Clan, if one is ignorant of its criminal character and of its murders, burnings and other detestable crimes, let him read the reports of the trials in the U. S. Circuit court at Columbia at the November term of 1871. It is a gross offense against the idea of government by law that the order responsible for them should be glorified or represented today in any part of the country in any favorable light.

"As to the Negro race after the wrongs it has suffered, if there is anyone in the country who can revile it and especially in connection with its struggle into citizenship after generations of slavery, he should do his reviling in some other state than Massachusetts, where chief glory it is that she was in the forefront of those who led that race out of bondage."

Ought to Be Stopped

Lieut.-Gov. Cushing based his plea for legislation on the ground of public morals, and called attention to the fact that every day insidious plays are being produced that corrupt the morals of the youth. Asked if he would favor the "race and religious" law proposed, he said he did not know; that he would have to think it over.

Asked just what he would add to the present statute governing productions of this sort, he also said that he was not prepared to answer, but would supply the committee later with his opinion.

"A situation has developed, however," said Cushing, "where there is no authority anywhere to stop a play that is offending a large portion of the population. The protest is not from the negroes alone, by any means, for I have received telephone calls from the district which I represented for years in the Legislature protesting against this play and against such a situation.

"There ought to be authority placed in the hands of competent authorities to stop such plays. I am not in favor of any particular bill, but it is manifestly possible to draft some legislation. The Mayor told me personally that he would like to stop this play, but did not have the authority. There is a situation where there is no authority and where authority should be provided."

Moorfield Storey pleaded for the negroes as a race brought here against their will, kept, in slavery, barred from trains, hotels, restaurants, labor unions and before whom avenue after avenue to employment is being closed.

"It is not logical," he said, "that they will submit year after year to this."

The photoplay itself Storey declared to be historically incorrect. The Ku-Klux Clan, he said, was formed to stop the negro from voting, not as depicted in the play to stop rape. He thought that the film was an attempt to rehabilitate the clan.

He wanted a uniform law throughout the state whereby the mayors or other authorities could close up a show of this sort immediately. He thought that this was more important than censorship.

Would Stop Play

It was stated by Storey that obscenity should not be the only cause for stopping a show in Boston. The "Birth of a Nation," he said, was a deliberate attempt to deepen instinctive prejudices and to commercialize the most unholy instincts of man. In answer to a question, he stated that he had not seen the play but had heard about it from friends of his whom he considered reliable.

Rep. Burr asked Storey if under the present law, he would not stop the play if he was the Mayor of Boston. Storey replied that he would. There ensued a lengthy discussion, the meaning of which was appreciated only by the lawyers present, as to the proper means of framing a legislative remedy for this and similar situations.

Dr. Francis R. Rowley, president of the S. P. C. A., objected to the play from the standpoint of general race prejudice. Joseph Lee of the Boston School Committee said he had not seen the play, but declared the present law was not strong enough. He declared a law should be passed prohibiting the exultation or glorification of lynching, which, he said, was one of the greatest sins of this country.

Play Insidiously Immoral

Miss Adeline Moffett stated she never saw a play so insidiously immoral, so hypocritically clever or so dangerous to the country. She said she came from the South and that no good Southerner ever boasted of Ku-Klux ancestry. She also declared that the question before the committee was something which affected far more than Boston.

William H. Lewis, former assistant U. S. Attorney-General, said that it was a good thing that the General Court of Massachusetts met yearly for the correction of grievances. He declared that an attempt was being made by "that three miles of filth film at the Tremont Theatre" to blacken and degrade our people in Boston, the birthplace of American freedom." He declared that one of the main purposes of the film was to justify the lynching of negroes in the South.

Monday Morning

Mr. Lewis said the elimination of one or two scenes did not wipe out the element of race prejudice and said the only way to kill a snake was to cut of its tail close to its neck.

The "Birth of a Nation," he said, was worse than 100 riots in any part of the United States in its effect upon public sentiment.

The former assistant Attorney-General said that the negroes wanted some kind of a bill to prohibit the continuance of such a performance and that they did not care what kind of a bill it was as long as it accomplished the purpose.

Frank Hammond, secretary of the executive committee of the Bar Association, read excerpts of the testimony given at the trial of the Ku-Klux Clan in Columbia, S. C., in 1870 to show the difference between the real Ku-Klux outfit and the one depicted in the "Birth of a Nation."

Rev. Herbert S. Johnson said the photoplay was more dangerous to the white people than the negroes. He said if it was an issue between the Jews and Gentiles or the Catholics and Protestants the theatre would be torn apart if the play was not stopped. He said he had heard some negroes say they were willing to sacrifice their lives if the production was continued.

Rev. Francis Henry Smith read a report of a committee of five Congregational clergymen condemning the play and the Rev. Christopher R. Eliot of the Federation of Churches of Greater Boston read a report of the directors of that organization also protesting against the film. The opposition will be heard Monday at 10.30 a.m.

RECONSTRUCTION FILMS STIR BOSTON NEGROES

Boston, April 19.—Governor Walsh today discussed with Attorney General Attwill, Chief Neal, of the state police; Stephen O'Meara, Boston police commissioner, and Superintendent Crowley, of the Boston police, the question whether he had authority to prohibit further exhibition here of picture films purporting to portray scenes of the civil war.

Resolutions protesting against the pictures were adopted by the New England Methodist conference, now in session here, but Mayor Curley decided he could not interfere, as it was not established that the pictures were obscene.

While the governor was closeted with the other officials, several hundred negroes, waiting to be heard in protest against the exhibition, occupied the steps of the statehouse. Among them were a number who were arrested after a demonstration at a local theater Saturday night.

The governor, after the conference, notified a delegation representing the protestants that he would ask the legislature to pass a law prohibiting plays or picture exhibitions that raised the race question.

Police Commissioner O'Meara said he thought a statute enacted in 1910 governing public exhibitions would authorize him to stop the one in question.

Negro Representation

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—

Having attended many Legislative sessions in which debates were held upon the photo play, "Birth of a Nation," especially, and censorship of moving picture plays in general, I was led to consider the fact that negro representation was needed at the State House, in order to properly represent the colored race.

There were able and fair Legislators who advocated the amendments desired by the colored proponents of the censorship bill.

However, it does seem to be a fair conclusion that among the 20,000 members of the colored race in Boston, there might be a voter and citizen among them who could adequately and capably represent their interests. If there has been in the past, men of political aspirations who held such representative positions in the Legislature or the Common Council, who were not proper representatives, but were considered as politicians only, of unsavory record, I am sure there are, today, men of quite a different character who should consider the advisability for going into political life as a fit representative.

Surely, the time has now come for a new course to be pursued, for the colored race have now, during this recent agitation, a great opportunity to declare themselves and vindicate their character before the public.

Carrie G. Barr.

Boston, May 20

Sunday Ban on "Birth of Nation"

George C. Neal, acting chief of the state police, put a ban on "The Birth of a Nation" as a Sunday attraction when he disapproved of the presentation of the picture at Lynn Sunday night, under the auspices of the local lodge of Elks. Deputy Neal, who saw the pictures in Boston last Wednesday, decided they were not satisfactory for a Sunday entertainment. The State police has power of censorship over motion-picture films.

NEGROES FLING FLAG OF TRUCE THEY DECLARE

Denounce 'Birth of Nation'

at Big Mass Meeting on Common.

INDIRECT THREATS OF VIOLENCE MADE

Photoplay Also Scored by Speakers in Tremont Temple.

Declaring that the negroes of this city have simply put up a flag of truce during pending legislation anent the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," several colored pastors of negro churches in Boston, addressing a mass meeting of protest of more than 1000 negroes on the Common yesterday afternoon, bitterly denounced the production and made indirect threats of violence unless the film is stopped by legislation.

The permit for the use of the Common was obtained from the police on the pretext that a religious meeting was to be held. But the speakers immediately launched into expositions of about everything else but religion. From time to time a speaker, realizing how far away from religious topics he was straying, would cite a scriptural quotation and laughingly remark he would use it as a text.

Text From Coin

One of the speakers after this fashion said he knew of no better text than that found on coins, "In God We Trust." His choice was greeted with applause and laughter.

The meeting on the Common followed a meeting which crowded Tremont Temple earlier in the afternoon, at which many prominent white people of Boston, including Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard were the speakers.

An appeal was made on the common asking 500 negroes to visit Governor Walsh this morning and petition him to send a special message to the Legislature requesting effective legislation to suppress "The Birth of a Nation."

The speakers on the Common accused the Boston newspapers of being "bought up" by advertising, declared that certain public officials did not stop the play because they had been "greased," and threatened that if the play was not stopped by legislation it will be stopped by violence.

Flag of Truce

They asserted that the negroes have simply put up a flag of truce during pending legislation about the play, and that the fight to stop it is still on in full swing. "'The Birth of a Nation' must go," was the slogan reiterated in their addresses by all of the speakers.

Addressing his audience as "mixed white folks," the Rev. William M. Thornton said: "We are supposed to be in a state of hysteria, but hysteria sometimes turns to bombs, and bombs are dangerous. We have been humble and peaceful, but all the volumes of peace have been exhausted and we are liable to go crazy some morning. You know crazy people are not responsible for their actions."

The Rev. D. O. Walker, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church of Chelsea, urged the negroes of this city to compel the suppression of the play even at the cost of their lives.

That a "negro Ku Klux Klan" might be formed in Boston was asserted by Rev. B. W. Swain, pastor of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Columbus avenue.

The Rev. M. A. N. Shaw, pastor of the Twelfth Baptist Church, scored the Boston newspapers and asserted that reports of the protest meetings were not printed because the papers were bought up with the advertising of those producing the photoplay.

"A Shame to Boston"

"In this city, where one can hardly walk without stumbling over some monument dedicated to liberty and equality the colored people are goading under enslavement. And something is going to snap soon.

"This thingh as become unendurable and there is enough manhood and womanhood under these mixed skins to resent it. To permit the production is a shame to Boston. The entire history of this nation testifies to the sacrifice of the negro and the way he has helped the white race in its progress. And now we merely ask a law on the books that will be greater than Dixon and his clan."

"If all the white people are not angels they certainly are not devils," said Dr. Shaw. "As a matter of fact the majority of the white people are with us in this fight.

"The question would never have arisen at all if the pulpits had not been filled with hypocrites. Such a production should have been attacked from a religious standpoint as violating all the ideals of true Christianity."

Tremont Temple Meeting

The meeting in Tremont Temple was addressed by Dr. Charles W. Eliot, Dr. Samuel W. Crothers, Rolfe Cobleigh, Mrs. Susan W. FitzGerald, Butler R. Wilson, the Rev. Henry F. Smith, Judge Philip Rubenstein, Rabbie M. M. Eichler, Miss Adeline Moffat, Professor Henry G. Pearson and Dr. Francis H. Rowley, who presided.

Dr. Eliot characterized the play as "a strong representation of a misrepresentation of the birth of this nation." He asserted that the false feeling aroused by the play will not effect the colored people, but will have a bad effect on the white people of this country.

He urged the passage of a law to apply to all such "unwise, unpatriotic and un-American productions."

Boston, Mass.

MAY 7 1915

DIXON DENIES PLAY AIMED TO DRIVE OUT NEGRO

The Rev. Thomas Dixon, author of "The Clansman," from which the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," was written and produced, and Rolfe Cobleigh, editor of the Congregationalist, have renewed their controversy over the intentions of the novelist in the preparation of his book, and of the real purposes of the protested film. In a statement issued ever said the purpose of his book or the ever said the purpose of his book, or the photo-play was the extermination of the Negro race.

Mr. Cobleigh declared last night that, although he never used the word extermination in connection with Dixon's statement, he said and reiterates that the novelist told him that one of the purposes of the play was the removal of all Negroes from the United States; and he added that if Mr. Dixon denies that he is not telling the truth.

Mr. Dixon's statement reads:

Calls It Hallucination.

"The statement made by Rolfe Cobleigh that I told him that the purpose back of 'The Birth of a Nation' was the extermination of the Negro race, is the hallucination of an over-heated mind. The assertion is so foolishly absurd on its face that it would not require denial, but for the widespread hysteria which at present affects our colored friends in Boston.

"Early in March I received a letter from Mr. Cobleigh denouncing 'The Birth of a Nation,' which he had never seen. I suggested mildly that he suspend judgment until he had seen it, or at least until I could forward the verdict of the Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, D. D., pastor of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, who had been asked to see it and make a special report from a clergyman's point of view.

"Mr. Cobleigh replied expressing his confidence in Dr. Parkhurst. A week later he wrote me again for asking for the report from the distinguished clergyman reformer. I immediately mailed it and asked him to print it in full in The Congregationalist. This he failed to do. The reason was simple. It was not what he expected or desired. He did not wish to know the truth. He wished only to attack the play.

Opposed by Parkhurst.

"Dr. Parkhurst gave 'The Birth of a Nation' his 'unqualified approval,' and specifically declared that the play was in no sense an attack on or a reflection on the Negro race of today. On the other hand, he squarely affirmed that the final impression of the drama was the highest compliment to the Negro of today because it showed so simply and plainly his progress from the conditions of 50 years ago, when he had just emerged from slavery.

"On my arrival in Boston on the 9th of April I called at Mr. Cobleigh's office to ask why, after demanding the report of Dr. Parkhurst, he had failed to print it. I met the gentleman for the first time in my life and had a very pleasant but unprofitable talk with him in his little sanctum.

"I again laughingly suggested that he suspend his final judgment until he should see the play that night. He frankly informed me that his mind was already made up, and that no event in heaven or earth could move him. I told him, of course, he could only see on the screen that which he had made up his mind to see. I laughed again and gave him two tickets for which he thanked me.

Can Make Use of Cobleigh.

"The mental make-up of such men is a curious study. As a novelist I intend to use Mr. Cobleigh.

"'The Birth of a Nation' is an absolutely true record of the turbulent life of the civil war and reconstruction. It was produced to stimulate, through three thrilling hours, the study of American history. I find it is certainly accomplishing that purpose.

To the man or woman who sees it with an open mind, it brings only inspiration and gratitude to God for the blessings we enjoy today as a free, united nation.

"The play is much broader and more catholic than my book, on which it is based. In fact, the film is so much broader that I insisted that Mr. Griffith change the title to 'The Birth of a Nation,' as 'The Clansman' was too narrow and controversial to fit the new production.

"Mr. Cobleigh is merely repeating preconceived ideas which he got long ago from an angry reading of one of my books. He certainly found no such idea in 'The Birth of a Nation.' The play speaks for itself. Its producers cannot be held responsible for what the critics of my book imagine must be in it.

"I never made the statement which came from Mr. Cobleigh's excited brain. I never made any such statement to any human being. It is hysteria pure and simple."

Same Allegation About Others.

Mr. Cobleigh said last night:

"The allegation of an overheated mind Mr. Dixon makes about everybody who opposes his play. I have had considerable correspondence with him about the play and one interview. In one letter he enclosed a clipping from a New York newspaper in which he was reported as arguing at length for the deportation of Negroes from the United States; and quoting Abraham Lincoln in support of the plan.

"He later called at my office and talked most of the forenoon about the play. I finally asked him just what he hoped to accomplish by the film. He replied that one purpose of it was to promote the removal from this country of all Negroes. I laughingly suggested the impracticability of getting rid of 10,000,000 persons. He replied that he was convinced that a start could be made at once and that the project could be accomplished within a century. If he denies that he is not telling the truth.

"As for failing to publish in The Congregationalist Dr. Parkhurst's report, we had no space for it. We should not have published it at such length if it had been in opposition to the play."

call

INSULTING THE NEGRO.

The negro's attitude toward "The Birth of a Nation," the photo-play founded on Thomas Dixon's "The Clansman," is natural. If the colored race lacked incentive to rebel against what it considers an insult, it was furnished by the strong denunciations which many white men have uttered. The play has been scored as a wanton affront to the negroes of the United States and one need not be prejudiced in their favor to believe that this is true. There is no occasion for the objectionable parts. If the play lacks merit without these features, then it is not a meritorious play and should be set aside, no matter what has been spent upon its production.

But the negroes—described as a "mob"—who engaged in a riot of some sort in Boston, had not prejudged the play, evidently. They wanted to see it, it seems, and draw their own conclusions. They were not allowed to do so. When they sought tickets they were informed that none would be sold to them. The management no doubt feared a disturbance if colored people were admitted, but does not this fact imply that it was aware that the production was offensive to negroes? If the "objectionable parts" had been cut out, as was claimed, no negro would have created a disturbance. The "riot" that followed was open to some question as to its riotousness, but surely the negroes had cause for anger, and they are an emotional race. This incident seems a wholly needless insult to a race that is soundly American despite its error of complexion, and is truly patriotic.

STILL FIGHTING OBNOXIOUS MOVIES

Boston, Mass., April 30.—With practically all of the white and colored ministers of this vicinity voicing protests against its continued production, the fight against "The Birth of a Nation" continues unabated. Dr. Charles W. Eliot, President Emeritus of Harvard University, is among those who have entered protests. Mass meetings have also voiced opposition.

The trials of a number of those arrested during the alleged trouble at the Tremont Theater, where the play is being shown, took place Wednesday. One man, John Hines, was dismisesd. Several others were fined and paroled.

Race Problem—1915
Moving Pictures

"The Birth of a Nation" Controversy.

A Statement by the Producer, D. W. Griffith.

Editor of The Globe, Sir:—An editorial in your issue of April 6, 1915, under the heading: "Capitalizing Race Hatred," you undertake to link our picture "The Birth of a Nation" with alleged feelings of sectional difference between the north and south. You ask yourself questions and proceed to answer them in the same old way that the same things have been gone over and over again. Where I must take issue with you is that you intimate that these old differences have been raised and exhibited "for purely sordid reasons," to quote your own words.

In presenting this motion picture story before the intelligent theatregoers of New York City, in a regular theatre, which has been well advertised, I thought the moving drama told its own story. My associates have maintained a dignified silence in the face of an organized attack of letter writers, publicity seekers, and fanatics against our work. We have traced this attack to its source, and know the reasons for it. Without wishing to tell any newspaper its business, permit me to suggest that a cub reporter in one hour could find out that this attack is an organized effort to suppress a production which was brought forth to reveal the beautiful possibilities of the art of motion pictures and to tell a story which is based upon truth in every vital detail. Our story states, as plainly as the English language can express a fact, the reasons for this presentation. In our captions we reiterate that the events depicted upon the screen are not meant as a reflection upon any race or people of to-day.

I demand to know the authority upon which you base your intimation that this work of art has been exhibited "for purely sordid reasons." I further demand that failing to establish this authority you retract your statement in as prominent and direct a manner as you have given publicity to the opinions of the writer of your editorial.

Our picture tells its own story and we are willing to stand upon the verdict of the New York public as to the fitness of this work of art to be judged as a drama of action based upon the authenticated history of the period covering the action of our plot.

The succeeding paragraphs of your editorial are political generalities which have nothing in common with the truths and purposes of the motion picture, "The Birth of a Nation." Our picture does show historic events which you undertake to use for an entirely different argument. We have contrasted the bad with the good and following the formula of the best dramas of the world we establish our ideals by revealing the victory of right over wrong.

I do not agree with your statements regarding the history of slavery and the reconstruction period of this nation, but that is not a matter of importance in this connection. Most well-informed men know now that slavery was an economic mistake. The treatment of the Negroes during the days of reconstruction is shown effectually and graphically in our picture. We show many phases of the question and we do pay particular attention to those faithful Negroes who stayed with their former masters and were ready to give up their lives to protect their white friends. No characters in the story are applauded with greater fervor than the good Negroes whose devotion is so clearly shown. If prejudiced witnesses do not see the message in this portion of the entire drama we are not to blame.

Your editorial is an insult to the intelligence and the human kindness of nearly 100,000 of the best people in New York City, who have viewed this picture from artistic interests and not through any depraved taste such as you try to indicate. Among those you have insulted are your contemporaries on the newspapers of New York, whose expert reviewers were unanimous in their praise of this work as an artistic achievement. Included in this list is your own able critic, Mr. Louis Sherwin, of The Globe.

We have received letters of the heartiest commendation from statesmen, writers, clergymen, artists, educators and laymen. I have in my possession applications for reservations from the principals of ten schools, who, having seen the picture, are desirous of bringing their pupils to view it for its historic truths.

The Rev. Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, the Rev. Father John Talbot Smith, and the Rev. Thomas B. Gregory, are among the clergy who have given us permission to use their names in approval of this picture in its entirety. Parents have asked us to make reservation for them that they may bring their children to see it. In every walk of life there are men and women of this city who have expressed their appreciation of this picture. Do you dare to intimate that these voluntary expressions of approval were voiced "for purely sordid reasons"?

The attack of the organized opponents to this picture is centred upon that feature of it which they deem might become an influence against the intermarriage of blacks and whites. The organizing opponents are white leaders of the National Asociation for the Advancement of the Colored People, including Oswald Garrison Villard and J. E. Spingarn, who hold official positions in this pro-intermarriage organization.

May I inquire if you desire to espouse the cause of a society which openly boasts in its official organ, The Crisis, that it has been able to throttle "anti-intermarriage legislation" in over ten states? Do you know what this society means by "anti-intermarriage legislation?" It means that they successfully opposed bills which were framed to prohibit the marriage of Negroes to whites.

Do you know that in their official organ, The Crisis, for March, 1915 they brand 238 members of the Sixty-third Congress as "Negro baiters" because these representatives voted to prohibit the marriage of Negroes to white in the District of Columbia?

You close your editorial, in which by inuendo you link our picture to your own assertions, with this sentence:

"To make a few dirty dollars, men are willing to pander to depraved tastes and to foment a race antipathy that is the most sinister and dangerous feature of American life."

That statement is obviously a generality, but it is printed at the end of an editorial which is a covert attack upon our picture, "The Birth of a Nation." As the producer of that picture, I wish to say if the man who wrote it meant one iota of the sentence just quoted to apply to our picture he is a liar and a coward.

Whether this was the intent of the sentence quoted it could not fail to create an impression in the minds of your readers, damaging my reputation as a producer. Therefore, as a matter of justice, I ask that you publish my statement of the facts.

D. W. GRIFFITH.

New York, April 7.

What Some Globe Readers Say.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—I have read with regret numerous criticisms of the photo play known as "The Birth of a Nation." I had the pleasure of witnessing the first performance at the Liberty Theatre. It is a wonderful tale of the important events in American history, forcibly and accurately told, and brings into strong relief the contrast between the greatness and the kindliness of Lincoln as compared with the pettiness of the carpet-bag politicians who so utterly failed in their attempt to reconstruct the south after the civil war. The Negro question is a problem which must be met with fearless candor and free discussion if we would preserve our race and civilization from disaster. I see nothing objectionable in this play, but, on the other hand, it truthfully presents the Negro question, which is not fully comprehended by the people of the north, and it teaches great moral lessons in government even more forcibly than could be done by word of mouth or pen.

H. M. BRIGHAM.

New York, April 7.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—Your editorial on "Capitalizing Race Prejudice" is the most manly and straightforward comment against the many wrongs heaped upon a struggling race, and is sure to meet the approval of every true American. "The Birth of a Nation" should be given a sudden death by the city authorities, for it is true that no good can result from the continued showing of pictures that bring out the crudest and vilest traits of a people.

J. ESTES GARDNER.

New York, April 7.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—The criticism of the Photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," is, in my opinion, totally unjustified. If anybody who should see "The Birth of a Nation" should feel bitter against the colored race, what effect would "The Huguenots" have on the average man who goes to the opera?

I have seen the play and I do not think that there is a man living who has less prejudice against the colored race than I have, and if there were anything in the play of such an incendiary nature I should not have cared to let my children go and see it.

"The Birth of a Nation" is a credit to the American stage, and I, for one, find that the average person benefits more by seeing such a historical play than by going to a performance such as "Peg o' My Heart."

The narrow-minded people who object to such a play should object to history and strike out of the annals of the United States most important happenings. Previously to my seeing "The Birth of a Nation" I read "The Clansman." If there is anything wrong with the play or the book there is something wrong with our history. Your paper should take a broader view of the thing and not applaud when a minority raises its voice, defending an unjustified cause.

New York, April 7. MAX GRAB.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—The writer, who is an admirer and daily reader of your paper and a member of the race so unjustly slandered by the moving picture film "The Birth of a Nation," wishes to thank you for your admirable editorial entitled "Capitalizing Race Hatred."

Having read "The Clansman," a book which untruthfully describes all the bad and none of the good qualities of the African race in America, and upon which the scenes in "The Birth of a Nation" are founded, I could not believe it possible until it came to pass that so enlightened a community as that of New York City could say at this present day: "We will make you wealthy, D. W. Griffith, if you will display the impossible side of the Negro."

WILLIAM C. MORRIS.

New York, April 8.

Editor of The Globe, Sir— . . . Born in the north, but reared in the south, I find there are good and bad people in all colors and creeds everywhere.

The photo drama in question shows the bad Negro and the bad white man, and the good Negro and the good white man, and I can see nothing in it but a perfect history of enlightening and educating detail shown upon the canvas.

I note the good in this picture where it refers to the Negro receives, like it should, the heartiest applause from the audience, and I cheerfully join in it myself, the same as one applauds any good deed.

I fail to see where any attempt is made in this production to arouse feeling between blacks and whites. As a matter of artistic production, "The Birth of a Nation" is, to my mind, without a peer in its painstaking design and presentation, and as a matter of fact it impresses me as having educational possibilities simply incalculable.

New York, April 7. J. C. WEIR.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—After reading your editorial entitled "Capitalizing Race Hatred" I went to see "The Birth of a Nation." I found that the article mainly justified itself, but was glad to note you were wrong with respect to Lincoln.

One could not but notice, if applause has any significance, just how the audience was affected by the pictutre. It clearly aims at destroying any brotherly feeling for the Negro. This is precisely the spirit which in 1860 believed in putting the Negro on his feet and then tying them there.

The play may be very interesting and amusing, but the harm it can do greatly outweighs its benefits.

IRVING I. FREEDMAN.

New York, April 7.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—You evidently know nothing of the reconstruction period, with its attendant crimes and misery, or you would not have written the editorial in to-night's Globe. With you it may be a matter of history vague and unreal. To those who lived through it it is a matter of grim horrors never to be forgotten. I could, if it were expedient, give you details of things that took place all over my own county that would put to shade anything depicted in the wonderful presentation of "The Birth of a Nation." . . .

The Negroes seem to be the only class to be affected by the picture. I should have supposed the Stonemans would have resented it as well. It's a great picture, and a great lesson may be learned if the wise are not confounded by the foolish.

G. S.

New York, April 6.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—To the woman who said "Why should niggers live?" after seeing "The Birth of a Nation" the self-respecting members of my race feel like saying what the great Christ said of his persecutors on the cross: "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." We have no apology to make for our existence, and to determine just why "niggers" should live I would refer the "lady" for an answer to God the great Creator, who out of one blood created mankind. That such a query should be asked after seeing this film play, "The Birth of a Nation," demonstrates beyond measure just the impression it is making on the minds of the public. I venture to say, however, that this expression does not typify the best thought of the American people. Already there have been expressions from the best white men and women of this city to satisfy the members of my race that this is not the prevailing sentiment against the Negro.

CLEVELAND G. ALLEN.

New York, April 6.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—Permit me to offer you my congratulations and thanks for your splendid editorial in to-day's Globe under the caption, "Capitalizing Race Prejudice." Its courageous and manly tone discovers that there are still some good hearts in this nation, some white men who love justice and fair play even for the Negro. "The Birth of a Nation" is a vicious representation of history exaggerated out of all proportion.

JOHN E. BRUCE.

Yonkers, N. Y., April 6.

APR 24 1915

LEADERS LINE UP ON NEGRO PROTEST

All Out at Hearing on Regulating Objectionable "Movies"—New Haven Bill to Be Heard Tuesday.

(Special to The Herald.)

STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, April 24.—With Governor Walsh, Lieutenant Governor Cushing and Samuel W. McCall already on the line in favor of legislation to stop the production in Massachusetts of pictures tending to arouse racial prejudices, it looks as if "The Birth of a Nation" butted into Boston just in time to be a real factor in State politics. This is the picture which has starfed negro riots.

Eugene Noble Foss has so far failed to take a stand publicly on the matter, but his entry any day now is to be expected.

Councillor Ham, Colonel Goetting and other aspirants for the second place nomination have stayed away from the hearings before the rules committee, the committee on the judiciary, and it is a question whether or not they are not jeopardising their chances with their political futures by so doing.

At any rate, with the line-up mentioned above, with the speaker of the House on record in a public statement in favor of some legislation looking to the limiting of productions of a character similar to that based on Thomas Dixon's book, it looks at this writing as if he would be a rash member of the Legislature who would take a stand against the passage of a bill.

The feeling at the State House at the present time is that some legislation will go through which will give to the mayor of Boston the same power to prevent the production of any play which other mayors of cities have. The effect of such legislation would undoubtedly be to stop the present Boston production, in view of the public statement of Mayor Curley, who thinks that the thing is ou reous and ought to be stopped.

The New Haven Hold-U

The coming week will be an ant one at the State House. T tion of legislation to stop the will be up for consideration edly. On Tuesday the comn railroads will have anothe hearing on the bills for valid acts of the New Haven rail at the same time the committe ation will begin its hearing five recommendations of the for taxation law enforcement

The New Haven, as has be ed out in these columns be real trouble ahead. There is right feling in the committe roads against the passage of a lation for the assistance of Elliott and his associates. Whet that can be overcome to any materia extent by another public hearing is the question. The Boston Chamber of Commerce interests are getting pretty hot under the collar because of the failure of the committee to have acted and business men of large size are likely to step in and demand that their words be taken with just as great force as those of the disappointed attorneys who have not been getting their meal tickets out of the treasury of the New Haven for the past two years.

Taxation and Recess Committee.

The Governor's recommendations for legislation to insure the enforcement of the taxation laws are also sure to run up against a snag. Already there is talk of referring these measures to the next general court. Some of the most prominent Republicans in the Legislature are saying that it will be impossible to frame laws for the enfocement of the taxation system for the future until it has been decided what form of taxation the State will have. They want to wait until the proposed amendment to the constitution has been acted upon by the voters, assuming that it will pass the Legislature of this year and be submitted to the people for ratification.

There is also considerable talk of having the whole question referred to a recess committee. There have been so many such committes on the taxation problem that the necessity for further special study along this line is bound to be opposed strenuously. Those who argue in favor of such further study point to the fact that the Governor has urged the establishment of a commission to prepare an income tax law under the proposed amendment. That is a different proposition, however, from the one which certain members of the Legislature are discussing. The Governor's commission would be to work out a plan under the new conditions, while the scheme of the advocates of a recess committee is to study the whole question of taxation from beginning to end and report thereon and to collect summer expenses from the State funds.

The fate of the proposed investigation of telephone rates and conditions in the State is trembling in the balance again.

The House ways and means committee yesterday reported "ought not to pass" on the order appropriating $15,000 for that purpose.

This bill was framed on the message of Gov. Walsh. An inquiry was then made of the Public Service commission, and it reported back that it believed such an investigation should be made, but that it could not do anything unless an appropriation was made for the purpose.

An effort will be made to upset the adverse report.

The rules committee reported adversely on the bill to repeal the existing law prohibiting members of the Legislature from soliciting employment for their constituents from public service corporations.

A bill authorizing the incorporation of farm land banks was passed to be engrossed. The act provides that 10 or more persons resident in this commonwealth who have associated themselves by an agreement in writing with the intention of forming a farm land bank for the purpose of promoting rural mortgage credit may, with the consent of the board of bank incorporation, become a coropration upon complying with all the provisions of the act. The board is authorized to grant such consent when it is satisfied that the proposed field of operations is favorable to the success of a farm land bank, and that the standing of the proposed incorporators is such as to give assurance that its affairs will be administered in accordance with the spirit of the act. The words "Farmland Bank" shall be a part of the corporate name of every corporation organized under the provisions of the act, and the word "Farmland" shall not be used in the corporate name of any other corporation doing business in this commonwealth.

The House non-concurred with the Senate in its amendment to the bill authorizing cities and towns to regulate advertising signs and asked for a committee of conference.

PLAYS ON THE SCREEN.

New and Unusual Pictures at the New York Houses.

Attractions at the moving picture theatres this week, with the opening of the summer season are livelier than ever.

"The Birth of a Nation," at the Liberty Theatre, is without a rival, the most unusual picture drama yet produced. It deals with the problems of reconstruction in the South at the close of the civil war, shows actual battle scenes, the rise and fall of the Ku-Klux Klan and other features of historical accuracy.

"The Eternal City," the Famous Players Film Company production of Hall Caine's novel of life in Rome, at the Astor Theatre, with Pauline Frederick in the leading part, is one of the most artistic and interesting feature plays to be seen in the city.

The Hippodrome's new programme this week contains as the leading picture "The Incomparable Mistress Bellairs," after David Belasco's play "Sweet Kitty Bellairs." In addition there are Charles Chaplin and Webber and Fields comedy reels, a group of living pictures by artists' models, and selections from "The Gondoliers," sung by Katherine Irving, Bernice Mershon, Vernon Dalhart and Harry Luckstone.

The new picture at the Vitagraph Theatre is "The Chalice of Courage," made from a story by Cyrus Townsend Brady. It contains many beautiful scenes taken in the mountains of California. There is also an interesting group of comedy reels.

Lois Meredith is seen this week at the Strand in "The Woman," made from a Belasco and Cecil de Mille play. There are several other pictures and a well chosen music programme.

The Broadway Theatre is this week showing a popular play of a year ago, "Help Wanted," with Lois Meredith and Owen Moore. Charles Chaplin is also to be seen in some of his popular portrayals, as are Weber and Fields in a comedy called "Two of the Finest." There is also the usual music programme.

Ex-President Eliot has paid his respects to the "Birth of the Nation" in no uncertain terms. At a mass meeting in Boston, the direct charge was made that the author's real motive was to arouse the white people against the negro so as to effect the repeal of the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Amendments, and the deportation from America of its colored citizens. Dr. Eliot said that these Amendments were those "which secure to all parties and peoples, and particularly to the emancipated slaves, the ordinary rights of personal freedom and public justice. Are we going to allow this to be set forth in every community unless the antidote to the poison is also supplied?" As to the proposal to deport the negro, it was "inconceivable and monstrous," "an abominable outrage." Turning to the Ku-Klux-Klan, he said:

A more dangerously false doctrine taught by the play is that the Ku-Klux-Klan was on the whole a righteous and necessary society for the defence of Southern white men against black Legislatures led by Northern white men. This is the same sort of argument being used by the Germans to-day, that a contract may be destroyed as a military necessity. Undoubtedly, grievous conditions existed in the South, but they did not justify the utter lawlessness and atrocities which marked the trail of the Ku-Klux. There can be no worse teaching, no more mischievous doctrine than this, that lawlessness is justified when necessary.

Mr. Eliot made this statement at one of the most determined mass meetings of protest ever held in Boston. There is an excellent prospect that the Legislature will soon act against this kind of play.

RESENTED BY NEGRO RACE.

Invitation to Legislators to Attend "Birth of Nation" Performance Denounced as Bribe.

The action of the management of "The Birth of a Nation" in inviting members of the Legislature to witness the picture show was characterized as "an insult to that body and also in the nature of an attempted bribe" by a speaker at a mass meeting of 500 colored people last evening in the Twelfth Baptist Church, 678 Shawmut av.

The meeting was called to order by Emery T. Morris, who explained that it was assembled to protest against "unfair, dishonorable and tricky tactics employed by the film-play management to defeat remedial legislation which the colored protestants are applying for."

Most of those present signed petitions which will be sent to the Legislature requesting it to "speed up" in getting the desired laws enacted. A committee of 100 was appointed to wait upon the Legislature Saturday morning with these petitions.

Among the speakers were W. D. Brigham, Rev M. A. N. Shaw, Rev S. A. Brown, Joshua A. Crawford, Rev E. A. Outen, Rev B. W. Swain and W. D. Johnson.

NEW FILM ADDED.

Advancement of the Negro Race Is Now Recorded in "The Birth of a Nation" at the Tremont Theatre.

"The Birth of a Nation" patrons at the Tremont Theatre yesterday welcomed the new film incorporated by orders of David W. Griffith, showing the progress of the negro race in this country. The record of advancement completed the story from the time the negro as shown in the first part of the picture was brought in chains from Africa up to the present, when he has developed extraordinary resource and skill in the arts, professions, crafts and agriculture.

The marvellous record, as flashed on the screen, was heartily applauded at both performances yesterday. It is now a permanent part of the picture. The suggestion as to its incorporation in the spectacle was made by several friends of the play in Boston, notably by Dr Charles Fleischer of the Sunday Commons. These friends felt that while the tale of carpetbagger and negro excesses during Reconstruction as pictured by Mr Griffith was true to history, yet in fairness the wonderful advances made since Reconstruction should also be presented.

Negro Representation

To the Editor of The Advertiser:—

Having attended many Legislative sessions in which debates were held upon the photo play, "Birth of a Nation," especially, and censorship of moving picture plays in general, I was led to consider the fact that negro representation was needed at the State House, in order to properly represent the colored race.

There were able and fair Legislators who advocated the amendments desired by the colored proponents of the censorship bill.

However, it does seem to be a fair conclusion that among the 20,000 members of the colored race in Boston, there might be a voter and citizen among them who could adequately and capably represent their interests. If there has been in the past, men of political aspirations who held such representative positions in the Legislature or the Common Council, who were not proper representatives, but were considered as politicians only, of unsavory record, I am sure there are, today, men of quite a different character who should consider the advisability for going into political life as a fit representative.

Surely, the time has now come for a new course to be pursued, for the colored race have now, during this recent agitation, a great opportunity to declare themselves and vindicate their character before the public.

Carrie G. Barr.

Boston, May 20.

Race Problem - 1915
Moving Pictures

GOVERNOR ACTS ON FILM PROTEST

Conference at State House May Lead to Ban on Photoplay.

[Special to The Union.]

BOSTON, April 20—"I don't suppose there was ever before a day like this witnessed in the State House in all its history. Men and women coming here with tears in their eyes, asking the Governor to protect them from race hatred. I hope to God it will never happen again." Statement by Gov. Walsh at the close of a conference yesterday with Negro citizens, who protested to him against the further production of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," in the Tremont Theater.

Two thousand Negroes, excitable and demonstrative, accompanied by numerous white persons, had assembled at the State House by 9 o'clock in the morning, acting on the exhortation of speakers at the Sunday Faneuil Hall massmeeting. In the crowd was a band of singers and when they started "America" there was hissing and the singing stopped. There was also hissing, though in smaller volume, when "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung. Somebody started the song, "We'll Hang Jeff Davis to a Sour Apple Tree," and many in the gathering substituted the name of Tom Dixon, the author of the play, for that of Davis.

After a long wait 60 persons, constituting the protesting delegation to be received in the Governor's office, headed by William Monroe Trotter, were admitted. Meanwhile the Governor had been in conference with George C. Neal, deputy chief of the State police; Stephen O'Meara, police commissioner; Michael H. Crowley, superintendent of police; William H. Lewis, Butler R. Wilson, Henry C. Robbins and Atty. Gen. Henry C. Attwill.

Informing the delegation that there had been a consultation of the statutes and the decisions of the courts to see what could be done, Gov. Walsh stated the wisest course would be to apply to the Boston Municipal Court for a warrant and that in event that the court should find a violation of the law the police commissioner will report the findings to the Mayor of Boston.

"This is the first step to be taken," the Governor said, "and in the mean time I think possibly it may be desirable to have another person censor the play some time during the day. I want you to know that the law does not give me any power in the premises except to consult with the police commissioner, by reason of his receiving his appointment from the State government."

While the conference was going on in the Governor's office the big crowd in front of the State House began a period of speechmaking and singing that kept the throng of 2000 or more interested. Gospel hymns were sung with fervor and all the speeches were wildly applauded. They seemed to be very nervous and highly excitable.

Shortly after 1 o'clock at the conclusion of the conference Trotter appeared on the balcony of the third floor of the State House and, stepping outside the iron railing, addressed the crowd. He spoke of Gov. Walsh's attitude and said that the Governor had promised to do everything in his power to end the exhibition of the photo-play. Trotter was cheered, as was also the Governor.

Gov. Walsh made it plain that he is personally opposed to any further production of the picture-play in its present form, giving alleged scenes of the reconstruction period of the South. But whether the Governor has any authority to take action against it was the big question, finally settled by the agreement to have the case taken into the municipal court, which means its appeal to the higher courts, in any event.

The Governor also made the point that if there is not any law to sustain the court he will try to have some law enacted. He showed that chapter 494 of the acts of 1908 puts it up to the local authorities to determine what of a theatrical nature is obscene, immoral or tends to injure the morals of the community.

If the court finds, after a hearing, that there has been a violation of the law the police commissioner will make a finding that the play is immoral or obscene and will notify the Mayor to that effect. Gov. Walsh said that would be a happy ending of the case. But if the court should make an adverse ruling, then the Governor will send a special message to the Legislature, asking for a new law.

Police Commissioner O'Meara told the protestants that he thought a statute enacted in 1910 governing public exhibitions would authorize him to stop the one in question. He asked the committee to call at his office today to frame a complaint.

In addressing the committee, Gov. Walsh said that the sole reason why he did not act arbitrarily and forthwith to stop the exhibition was because he lacked authority. He advised the committee to make a formal complaint against the exhibitors in the Municipal Court, and said the police commissioner, who was directly responsible, would accept the court's decision. He added: "I sympathize with you tremendously. If there is anything tending more to destroy and undermine American institutions and American liberty it is race or religious prejudice. I don't propose while I am Governor of this State to allow any movement arousing antagonism to any race of people in Massachusetts. If any such movement is to be carried on in Massachusetts they have got to be carried on underground, where the sunlight does not shine.

"Try to use your good advice and say to your people that the Governor is interested in your welfare and that the sole reason he does not arbitrarily act forthwith is simply that he has not the authority or power; that he can act only through the legal agency which defines his authority. In good time I hope to be able to assist you. So let me ask you to go away peacefully and orderly and conscious of the fact that you enjoy just as full measure of rights as any other class of people and that your race and your color have as much right to be respected as any other race or color, that you have no reason at all to be ashamed or humiliated at the fact that there may be here and there something objectionable to you and your people.

"Massachusetts has always been a friend of your race and your men have fought and died for Massachusetts as bravely as any other men of any other race and you are all loyal to her today. The Constitution of this Government guarantees to every man, woman and child an equal opportunity in life, and those things which tend to and create prejudices and hatreds and bigotry must be eliminated not by force but by law. Through your committee I will keep in touch with the situation.

"The calm and sincere way in which you have presented to me your just grievances is another proof of the fact, if proof be needed, that your people have a right to enjoy the same privileges and rights of any class of people in the community. Perhaps your present misfortune and sufferings, for you evidently are suffering, will do more for the community than you realize. Sometimes even greater prejudices than those which are raised by a situation like this are eliminated and removed for the benefit of other races and classes of people outside of your own, and this agitation may result in a better understanding between all in the community.

"I want you to know that I intend to assert every influence and power that I possess to keep Massachusetts free from race or religious prejudices. If our Government has become great and has given to the world evidence of its God-given mission to mankind, it is due chiefly to the fact that here all men and all races are guaranteed equality of opportunity for the enjoyment of the blessings which the farmers of our Government guaranteed to all our citizens, and for which 140 years ago the farmers of Massachusetts struck the first blow at Concord Bridge."

'BIRTH OF NATION' WINS IN COURT

Judge Cooper Rules That the Photoplay Does Not Attack Any Race.

JURIST ENJOINS MAYOR

Crowds See Film Drama Produced at the Illinois Theater.

Holding that it made no attack on any race, Judge William Fennimore Cooper in the Superior Court yesterday granted a temporary injunction restraining Mayor Thompson and Chief of Police Healey from interfering with the "Birth of a Nation." As a result of the writ the photoplay was presented last night to a huge audience at the Illinois Theater.

In his decision Judge Cooper denied that the scenes portrayed discriminated against the negro race. He said as to the good and bad characters there was an even balance between whites and negroes in the photoplay.

CENSORS SEE FILM.

Four members of the municipal board of motion picture censors attended the by Second Deputy Funkhouser at the request of Chief Healey. They will make affidavits as to the various scenes in the photoplay. These documents will be presented to Judge Cooper on Tuesday morning. Then the city's lawyer's will seek to dissolve the injunction.

Assistsant Corporation Counsels George L. Reker and S. A. T. Watkins announced that Judge Cooper's decision, if made permanent, will be carried to the Appellate Court and the higher court will be asked to set aside the injunction.

The judge in granting the injunction decided that the city's contention that the production of the play would engender hatred against the Negro citizens of the city was based purely on assumption.

The judge said in part:

"This court is satisfied from the evidence that in this photoplay the good black man and the bad white man are equally prominent figures in the play.

DENIES PLAY IS UNIQUE.

"Every night in every fair-sized community in this broad land, where the stage instructs or entertains, each and every play has its good characters and its bad characters portrayed, both of which are essential to a play in the rounding out of its moral. Without a moral a play is of no educational value.

"Every night in every theater there is shown the debased type of the white race of different nationalities. And if groups of the various nationalities so presented became accutely sensitive that such individual portrayal would cause their race to suffer hatred, and all the plays in which a villain had played were stopped on that account, the theater as an educator and entertainer of the people would become a memory of the past and there would be nothing to fill its place for the education and enjoyment of our people.

RACES EQUAL UNDER LAW.

"No one race or nation has better rights under the law than any other has. Any race or nation so offended can best give the lie to the bad characters so presented by continuing to conduct themselves as law-abiding citizens, who do not expect greater legal rights than are allowed to all other men or nationalities.

"If white men appeal to the courts to restrain the production of a play because one of its characters portrayed that of a dissolute white man, whose acting would bring race hatred against the nation which his stage character assumes, their plea would be denied for want of law to support the same, and the law would be and is the same for black and white alike."

Judge Cooper also held that as Joseph McCarthy, who is producing the picture in Chicago, obtained a permit for the production in the last days of Mayor Harrison's administration, the revocation of that permit by Mayor Thompson did not deprive him of his rights to show the picture.

The judge held that as the play was censored by Charles C. Fitzmorris, former Mayor Harrison's private secretary, and Mrs. Harrison, and a permit issued in the regular way, the present city officials have no right to interfere with its production.

Marquis Eaton and Frank M. Fairfield of Chicago and A. L. Huston of Evanston have started a league to promote "wholesome motion pictures." Its idea is to aid approved movies in cooperation with producers, but not to operate as a board of censorship. It is proposed to form branch leagues all over the United States to pass upon photoplays, merely as critics, and to help those which meet with approval.

ALTOONA PA
TIMES-
MAY 10 1915

COLORED WOMEN TO PASS ON FILM

Delegation Requests Permission to See Portrayal of "The Nigger"

A special delegation representing the Women's Improvement club will view the pictures of "The New Governor," the film portrayal of "The Nigger," at

the Mishler theatre this morning at 10:45 o'clock. Manager Mishler granted this request following receipt of a letter from the officers of the club, he having previously arranged for the presentation of the pictures for a committee representing the colored male citizens of Altoona. The letter from the ladies' organization was signed by President F. E. Pittman and Secretary Ella Seward, and is as follows:

"Mr. I. C. Mishler, Manager Mishler Theatre, Dear Sir: The Women's Improvement club met and appointed a delegation of five to view the pictures to be shown at the Mishler, Thursday at 10:45 a. m. This club is federated under the state laws of Pennsylvania and we are working for the uplift and improvement of our race. We would like very much for your consent to see these pictures. By granting the above favor you will greatly oblige."

"The New Governor" has been shown in many cities throughout the country without any serious protest from the colored race, although many colored people have seen it. The following, which appeared in the Harrisburg Advocate on May 7, shows the manner in which the pictures were received in the Capital City: "The much talked of play, 'The Nigger' was shown here at Crandall's theatre and went its way without serious disturbance. If the film reflected on the colored people, the N. A. A. C. P. did not seem to know it. Many colored people saw it and all agreed that the worst thing about it was its misleading title. Rev. J. Milton Waldron, pastor of Shiloh Baptist church, declared that the play's awful indictment of the liquor evil fully justifies its existence. The colored citizens of the capital refused to get excited over the play."

THE REGULATION OF FILMS.

Wherever it goes, the "Birth of the Nation" film arouses widespread indignation. In Boston the excitement has been at white heat, because of a series of hearings before Mayor, Governor, and a committee of the Legislature. A judge has been found with authority and courage enough to cut out the most objectionable scene. The press has been full of arguments for and against the film and the proposed legislation. On Sunday last many clergymen preached about the play; and ex-President Eliot, speaking in a Cambridge church, was one of those who protested against its falsification of history. Never before have the colored people of Boston been so united and determined, or appeared to better advantage, and their white friends have rallied in great force to their aid. Gov. Walsh, ex-Congressman McCall, and Lieut.-Gov. Cushing have spoken out emphatically against permitting the play to continue, though the Mayor sided with the producers—as our own New York Mayor has failed to recognize in his utterances the gravity of the situation, or to rise to the emergency, being content with the promise of certain slight excisions, which appear to be of little or no value. The play continues to do its devilish work of misrepresentation and of arousing race hatred.

That Mayor Mitchel has had little legal authority to deal with the play is admitted, though there are differences of opinion as to just what powers were available. But this alleged lack of authority is to be remedied by an ordinance now before the Board of Aldermen to empower the Commissioner of Licenses to revoke, suspend, or annul any moving-picture license "for cause after a trial." The ordinance further reads:

Proof shall be taken before the Commissioner of Licenses upon notice of not less than two (2) days to the proprietor, manager, or person in charge of said place to show cause why such license should not be revoked, annulled, or suspended. The Commissioner of Licenses shall hear the proofs and allegations in each case and determine the same, and any place the license for which shall have been revoked, annulled, or suspended shall not thereafter be licensed again to the same licensee within one year, under the provisions of said sections. On any examination before a Commissioner of Licenses, pursuant to a notice to show cause as aforesaid, the accused party may be a witness in his own behalf.

This plainly constitutes the Commissioner of Licenses a censor of all moving-picture plays, precisely as the Mayor of every town in Massachusetts, except Boston, now has similar powers. That the plan has its defects is obvious, for a Commissioner of Licenses with bad judgment might work great harm.

But this risk is inevitable with any censorship, and no bill has as yet been suggested to the Massachusetts Legislature—which is bent on passing some measure before it adjourns—that is free from defects of one kind or another, save the proposal to put Boston on an equal footing with the other Massachusetts cities. The truth is that this wonderful new means for public amusement and education has brought with it grave perils which we are only just beginning to realize, for side by side with its educational possibilities are the dangers of unrestricted propaganda. As the Rev. Dr. Crothers has pointed out, we have lulled ourselves into a sense of security by repeating to ourselves that the "past at least is secure." But along comes this play, which is not only planned to make large sums for its promoters, but is admittedly a deliberate propaganda to degrade and injure ten millions of citizens, besides misrepresenting some of the noblest figures in our past, Stevens, Sumner, and Lincoln, and perverting history, if only by the onesidedness of its portrayal. Now, let us suppose, as Dr. Crothers has also suggested, that others inspired by this shameful example turn to religious propaganda, and represent the horrible murdering of Catholics at Drogheda by Cromwell, or the massacre of Protestants on St. Bartholomew's night—what then?

Undoubtedly, the tortures of the Inquisition would make effective capital against the Pope at Rome; and if moving pictures had existed in 1898, we might have seen a still more vindictive anti-Spanish crusade by films of battle, or devastation, or reconcentrado camps. Pictures of Russian pogroms would make plenty of money, yet rouse bitter national and racial antipathies. Obviously, the feeling that would result from a religious film-propaganda might lead to most serious breaches of the peace. If a mild, gentle, humorous philosopher like Dr. Crothers admits that the offending film in Boston stirred his heart to mutiny and rage, the potentialities for evil in less-balanced minds need no stressing. What makes the matter worse is that it is not a question of dealing with a single theatrical production, for the film can be duplicated so that the objectionable performance may be going on in forty or more cities at the same moment. It is not surprising, in view of this power for evil, that the United States Supreme Court on February 23 last in three unanimous decisions upheld the Ohio and Kansas laws creating official censors. "We would have," it said, "to shut our eyes to the facts of the world to regard the precaution unreasonable or the legislation to effect it a mere wanton interference with personal liberty." The Court plainly had in mind the difficulty of controlling by public sentiment alone a series of films scattered over the whole country.

Yet so excellent a newspaper as the Boston *Advertiser* feels that the proposed censorship may be a most dangerous infringement of our freedom of speech and of expression, on a par with the efforts to suppress Garrison and Phillips in anti-slavery days. The Boston *Transcript* and *Herald* appear to believe that if one bill proposed should become a law any citizens who indulged in a fight over a play could stop it, and that any play with a lesson to teach or one which undertook to dwell on the weaknesses of a group of our citizens might easily be driven off the stage. The plan of an official censor for whom the Mayor is responsible, with such a trial as is provided in the pending Aldermanic ordinance in this city, seems for the moment the best way out.

CENSORS 'PASS' FILM PLAY THAT STIRRED CITY

New Board Refuses to Revoke or Suspend License of Tremont Theatre, Where "The Birth of a Nation" Is Produced—Unanimous Decision of Official Critics.

Performances of the photoplay, "The Birth of a Nation," at the Tremont Theatre, will not be stopped. This was the unanimous decision reached by the new board of censorship last evening at the end of a three-hour session in the mayor's office.

"Having witnessed the performance, heard counsel representing the protestors and the licensee, and having given full consideration to the entire subject," the official statement of the board reads: "We have decided that the license of the theatre should not be revoked or suspended."

This action places the official stamp of approval on the production which resulted in numerous public hearings in a clash between the mayor and the Negroes of the city, in a demonstration at the doors of the Tremont Theatre, followed by court action, and finally in legislative action that ended in creating the present board of censorship, consisting of the mayor, as chairman; the police commissioner and the chief justice of the municipal court.

Both Sides Present.

One hour was allowed each side to present its case. Representing the objectors were J. Mott Hallowell, William H. Lewis and Butler R. Wilson. They rehearsed the case from the beginning, re-stated the objections already aired in City Hall, in churches, the courts and in the State House, and presented a petition bearing the names of more than 6000 who oppose the production of the film.

John F. Cusick appeared for the producers, and Corporation Counsel Sullivan was present in an advisory capacity.

The details of the session were not made public by the board, although, at the end of two hours of testimony taking, the attorneys for the objectors explained the proceedings to a group of nearly 100 Negroes who had waited outside the mayor's office. After hearing the testimony, the board sat for nearly an hour, in executive session.

As soon as the decision was reached, shortly after 7 o'clock, the mayor jumped into his automobile for a trip to New Bedford, where he had promised to act as the godfather at a Christening at 7:30. On leaving, his chauffeur told him that he would not be more than two hours and 15 minutes late.

Schoeffel Satisfied.

John B. Schoeffel, manager of the Tremont Theatre, said last night:

"I am sincerely glad that 'The Birth of a Nation' has been passed and application to revoke the license refused, because the judgment of the directors in booking the play has been thereby justified. Whatever inequality may have been felt in regard to the historical treatment of the Negro in some parts of the film has been removed by the incorporation of the Hampden Institute film, which shows the marvelous progress of the colored race since Reconstruction. We believe 'he Birth of a Nation' to be not only legally permissible, but also as now given a thoroughly impartial story holding the scales of justice even. We therefore invite the support of all the people of New England, and we beg to say that no malice is felt toward anyone whomsoever that has opposed the production in this city. To the more than 100,000 patrons who have seen it and to the 15,000 persons who in the last 10 days have signed petitions protesting against any interference, we extend our hearty thanks.

Race Problem – 1915
Moving Pictures

NEGROES HISS WILSON'S NAME

Protest Production of "Birth of a Nation" Film Here—Mayor to Send Censor.

President Woodrow Wilson and his cabinet were hissed for more than a minute by 200 negro citizens of Boston yesterday afternoon in the old aldermanic chamber at City Hall, when it was brought out by Lawyer John F. Cusick that the chief executive and his advisers had viewed the first performance of the feature moving picture film, "The Birth of a Nation," in the East Room at the White House and were much pleased with it.

Mayor Curley, after hearing all the speakers, decided that the picture could have at least one performance, but would be viewed by Official Censor Casey and the police department censor.

COMMENDED BY SUPREME COURT JUDGES

A few minutes later evidence was introduced to show that the same photo-play had been commended by the chief justice of the United States Supreme Court, other members of this distinguished body, more than ten United States senators and several representatives, at a private exhibition at the National Press Club, Washington. Again the hissing started, and Patrolmen Dougherty and Leahy had to quiet the crowd, while the mayor pounded with his gavel for order.

The demonstration occurred at the hearing given representatives, of the film, "The Birth of a Nation," which is now being exhibited in New York, and which will be shown at the Tremont Theatre next Saturday afternoon.

Some of Boston's most prominent clergymen and citizens appeared against the production, and requested the mayor not to allow the pictures to be shown, saying it would be a detriment to the negro race, causing race feeling and hatred. Only three of those present, two men and one woman, had seen the pictures. The objections were based almost wholly on three scenes said to appear in this film.

Object to Chase

The first objected to, according to Butler R. Wilson, who handled the case for the protestants, is where a negro called "Gus" is seen chasing a young white girl up a cliff. At the end she throws herself over to escape the negro's clutches.

The second scene, to which objection is raised, is that of a negro lieutenant governor in the South, who ties a young white girl to a chair and gags her because she will not marry him. Wilson also added that the young woman was last seen being taken into an adjoining bedroom. The third objection was to a scene during the Civil War when a father and mother and young white daughter, together with two Union soldiers, are holding a lone farm house against a horde of negroes. The final scene shows the father holding a pistol against the young girl's head as the house is stormed by the negroes.

Before any of the witnesses were heard, the mayor read the statutes which state that if a play, film, production or any such form of amusement is indecent, immoral or tending to corrupt the public morals, the mayor, with the approval of the police commissioner, may censor the production, and then, if both find it objectionable, the mayor may forbid its production.

Heard Negroes Denounced

Miss Mary White Ovington of New York, a settlement worker, was the first opponent called. She said she had seen the play twice and had heard members of the audience after the show say, "I would like to kill every nigger," and "I would like to sweep every nigger off the earth." She also said: "Why, the colored women in the pictures are shown in low gowns, and drink champagne."

"Did you ever see anything like this in the so-called 'high society?'" asked the Mayor.

"I never saw much society," said Miss Ovington, "but the expressions on the faces of these people are awful."

"Do you know any Shakespeare?" asked the mayor. "You have seen, then, where Lady Macbeth commits murder, and her husband's bloody hands. Was there not an awful expression on her face at the time?"

Miss Ovington contended that it was not as horrible as Gus'."

"You have seen the 'Merchant of Venice,' which is probably one of the best of Shakespeare's plays," continued the mayor. "In that you have seen Shylock. Don't you think the Jews have as much right to protest this playing as you have to oppose the moving picture of the negro. Was not the expression on Shylock's face more horrible than the face of this 'Gus' in the picture?"

"No, the face of 'Gus' was much more horrible," replied Miss Ovington.

To Save Daughter

The mayor explained that the scene where the father was aiming at the daughter's head with a pistol was to protect her from immorality. One of the opponents mentioned the fact that a negro was flogged. The mayor came back with the fact that even now in the State of Delaware men are flogged, sometimes for petty larceny. He also stated that "Richelieu" was played, and that, as he understood from the opponents of the film, it was more immoral. The mayor has not yet seen the picture nor read the manuscript.

"In 'Richelieu' the Cardinal declares, before everybody, his intentions of doing an immoral act. This play has never been stopped. Still you want this moving picture stopped, and so far you have not produced evidence that it is indecent nor immoral," said the mayor.

Moorfield Storey arraigned the producers, the mayor and the people who stood for the picture.

"This picture is for political purposes. It is to discredit the negro all over the country," he said.

The mayor interposed and said that the English could enter just such a protest against Shakespeare's "Henry VIII." He then read a letter from an Episcopal clergyman, who said the moving picture was wonderful. Mr. Storey then said that if the priests and the priesthood were portrayed in the way this film is alleged to portray the colored race, he would have plenty of supporters among the population of Boston to suppress it.

Arraigns "The Clansman"

The Rev. Dr. Alexander Mann, rector of Trinity Church, arraigned the book, "The Clansman," from which the play is taken, calling it "vindictive," "damaging to American citizenship" and "hurtful to the colored race." He was followed by Joseph Prince Loud, a Boston architect, who saw the film in New York. Loud criticized the display of the activities of the "Klu Klux Klan" and other illicit bodies in the South after the war, which are portrayed in the pictures.

The mayor, however, told them that history could not be eliminated, and that the best way to stop such things was to stop printing histories. Loud also touched on the immodest dress, she asserted, of the women in the pictures.

"This can be seen any night in any first-class hotel in Boston," said the mayor.

William Munroe Trotter, editor of a paper published in the interests of the colored race, whom the President asserts insulted him in Washington, was the next speaker. He gave a lengthy and lurid speech, telling how he had supported Curley for mayor, and expected that Curley would put the ban on the show. He said, "I'm 43 years old and ought to be some judge." After him came Dr. Francis H. Rowley of the M. S. P. C. A. This ended the opposition.

John F. Cusick, attorney for the photo-play company, stated that although more than 200 were present in opposition, only two men and one woman had seen the picture. He also asserted that the author of "The Clansman" was not responsible for the picture, but David W. Griffith, who later testified. He said the play shows the people what they are now enjoying in contrast to the past.

Praised by Censorship Board

"Here is the official report of the National Board of Censorship," said Cusick, handing it to the mayor. "This report reads: 'Educational value—excellent; artistic value, excellent; entertainment value, excellent; moral effect, good. This is the highest percentage given by this board for a production. It adds the opinion of the board in 'further comment.' This reads: 'Educationally, dramatically and artistically this should prove a great step forward in motion picture productions.' This is the opinion of the government censors.

"The first production of this photo-play was in the East Room of the White House, before President Wilson, and the members of his Cabinet. They declared it wonderful." At this point practically every negro in the chamber was hissing loudly. The crowd was so big that persons were sitting on window sills, standing up around the walls, and stretching out into the big corridor near the mayor's office. The two police officers and the mayor held up their hands, and then the mayor rapped for order.

Attorney Cusick looked up at the mayor and said with a smile: "To think that this would happen in the good old Democratic cit yof Boston." The mayor laughed and added: "And a non-partizan mayor in the chair."

Cusick continued: "Then the picture was produced at the National Press Club, at Washington, to which practically all of the senators, representatives and big men of the country belong. The chief justice of the Supreme Court of the United States was the host and his colleagues, as well as ten senators and a number of congressmen, were present. All declared that the picture was wonderful and educational." Again the hissing broke out.

Commended by Priest

Cusick then stated that the biggest "villains" in the photo-play were white men, and that only two out of six of the "villains" were colored. He then introduced David W. Griffith, who wrote the scenario. Later it was stated that this photo-play has netted him $200,000. Griffith told of the play, and stated that protestations like yesterday's would mean that the Indians could protest moving pictures, for in many Western pictures they are shown killing white men. He read a letter from a Catholic priest connected with the Columbiad, the official Knights of Columbus paper, commending him on the play. Also three letters from Catholic clergy in New York, received Monday, wishing to take the children of their parish schools to see the production in New York; also six letters received last week from principals of New York schools who praised the play, and wanted to take their scholars to see it.

On being asked by the mayor if he would eliminate the scene where the negro "Gus" is seen chasing the white girl up the cliff, off which she throws herself, he said he would if the mayor wished it, after having the film reviewed by the official censor. The mayor then said:

"My power is limited in this matter. I do not want to make political capital out of it, and I do not want to hurt a legitimate firm doing business. You people seem to want everything pertaining to the negro cut out of this picture. Are there not good negroes and bad? Are there not bad whites as well as good? Do you want the assassination of Lincoln cut out? Why, the white people of the country would protest that. You must remember that history cannot be denied."

At this point William M. Trotter interrupted, and stated that the colored voters had supported the mayor at election. The mayor paused a moment.

"This photo-play will be produced," he said. "I will have the official censor of the municipality there, and I will notify the police commissioner of the City of Boston to have his censor present. If this film violates the law it will be stopped. I shall not take any hand in the matter. You people have stated your case. You have introduced no evidence that I could use in stopping at least one performauce."

John B. Schoeffel of the Tremont Theatre told a Journal reporter after the hearing that the first production of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," will be given there next Saturday afternoon. Henry MacMahon, business manager for the film company, also appeared at the hearing, but none of these men spoke.

NEW FOE TAKES UP CUDGELS AGAINST 'BIRTH OF NATION'

In an effort to have the new censorship board reopen the hearing relative to the suppression of "The Birth of a Nation," a committee representing the Massachusetts branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League has filed a petition with the censors. Sensational developments are promised by the league if the hearing is reopened. The petition is signed by the Rev. M. W. Thornton, J. A. Crawford, E. T. Morris and W. M. Trotter. The communication follows:

"BOSTON, Mass., June 3, 1915.

"Hon. James M. Curley, Hon. Stephen O'Meara, Hon. Wilfred N. Bolster, Board of Censors of the City of Boston—Sirs:

"In behalf of the Massachusetts branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League, we the undersigned hereby ask a reopening of the question of the removal of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," and the granting of a public hearing thereon in compliance with the spirit of the law creating your commission.

Is Public Demand.

"As a public commission we call upon you to grant this right at once. We as citizens maintain that such an important public issue as the removal of this photo-play, which has been the subject of extraordinary public protest covering a period of eight weeks, cannot be properly decided by your honorable body at any private, star-chamber session, especially the one held from which our league's representatives were excluded after being notified to appear.

"We hold that, inasmuch as a legislative enactment has been passed specifically to suppress this play, growing out of a public declaration against the play by His Excellency, Gov. David I. Walsh, the petitioners against it are entitled to a full, fair public hearing, which is the Massachusetts way.

"We are aggrieved and denied our just rights by a decision without a hearing. On this right we insist because of the serious injury already inflicted upon us, evidence of which we desre and have a right to present when you grant such public hearing.

"We feel certain that the Governor of the commonwealth, prominent members of the Legislature and others of business and professional standing will appear to repeat their reasons why this prejudice-breeding play should be stopped."

To Combat Influence.

To discuss methods of combating the influence of "The Birth of a Nation" the executive committee of the Boston branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will meet at the home of Atty. Butler R. Wilson, 13 Rutland square, Tuesday night. Ministers and others interested in the situation will be invited to attend and take part in the meeting. The committee met yesterday afternoon at Wilson's office, 34 School street, to consider the situation, and adjourned until Tuesday. Those present at yesterday's meeting were Joseph P. Loud, Mr. Wilson, George G. Bradford, Adalene Moffat, the Rev. Samuel A. Brown, Mrs. Mary H. Loud and Dr. Horace Bumstead.

Atty. William H. Lewis, a colored lawyer who took a prominent part in opposing the photo-play, said to a Traveler reporter today:

"The public wouldn't stand for this production in any other city or town in the state.

"I understand the officials at Springfield yesterday refused to permit the film being shown there. I do not think the decision of the Boston censorship board represents public opinion. The fact that the Legislature passed the bill creating the new board shows what public opinion in this state is.

"The film will be opposed wherever it shows its head in this country."

Police Called to Quell Disturbance Over Film

The police of the Lagrange street station were called last night and another squad of officers were sent to the Tremont Theatre when a crowd collected in front of the entrance because of the speech making and other activities of a number of colored men and women protesting against the photo play "The Birth of a Nation." The management asked for police protection and patrolmen and plain clothes men were stationed in the theatre and on the street.

Prof. Allen W. Whaley attacked in his speech the new board of censors for not stopping the play. He also attempted to assail Mayor Curley and President Wilson, but at the mention of either of these officials the crowd waved their hats and cheered so persistently that the speaker was obliged to stop.

The antagonism to the speaker finally became so strong, especially when he referred to the President, that he was forced to seek refuge in one of the subway stations, accompanied by a white man, who was defending him.

No arrests were made.

In an open letter issued last night to the Negro citizens of Boston, J. Mott Hallowell urges them not to resort to violence to stop the further production of the photo-play, "The Birth of a Nation," which has been sanctioned by the new board of censors appointed as a result of the legislative agitation against the film. "Rise superior to your defeat and by your daily lives and example of good citizenship give the lie to your traducers," he advises.

Following is the letter in full:

"To the Colored Citizens of Greater Boston: It has been threatened to resort to violence in order to stop the further production in Boston of 'The Birth of a Nation.'

"When you fight, fight hard; but never begin a fight until you have cooled off and thought the matter out and are sure you are right in starting the fight. Then if you do go in, go in as hard as you can.

"The greatest generals are those who can turn defeat into victory. 'For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law till all be fulfilled.' You have now in this local contest two paths before you. One is to use violence against a superior force, in which course you will alienate many who are now your friends and will turn your local and temporary defeat into a general rout. The other is to rise superior to your defeat and by your daily lives and example of good citizenship give the lie to your traducers. Choose this bigger and wiser course. It may seem hard at first, but it is wiser in the end.

"The real struggle for you is not the struggle against this film; the latter is merely an episode in a race epoch. The real struggle is that of a race seeking its way out of bondage. The way is hard and your path is beset with difficulties. But ultimately you will win. And the measure of your success, in the long run, will be the kind of citizens that you show yourselves to be. 'And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not; for it was founded upon a rock.'

"J. MOTT HALLOWELL."

WILL AID NEGROES.

GOVERNOR WILL ASK FOR LAW TO STOP PHOTO PLAY.

Throng Cheers Executive When Announcement is Made—Court Action to be Tried First—Crowd Hisses "America."

Boston, April 20.—Governor Walsh will ask the legislature to pass a law to prevent the production of "The Birth of a Nation" and of all plays that tend to raise race or religious prejudice, in the event the courts decide there is no law on the statute books prohibiting such exhibitions. His announcement to that effect, made in the state house yesterday before a committee of sixty Negroes and white persons, was met with cries of "God save our governor," cheering and weeping by many of the delegation which had assembled in the executive chamber.

Four or five thousand persons, who had stood on the state house steps for nearly four hours, awaiting the decision of the conference within, applauded and sang when William Munroe Trotter appeared on the balcony and announced the governor's decision. Throughout the morning they had waited on the steps, singing, cheering and listening to speeches. The demonstration was marred only by the hissing of "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner" when some of those in the crowd began to sing.

It is possible that legal proceedings will be begun tomorrow to prevent the production of the much-discussed film. Governor Walsh said that Commissioner O'Meara, who conferred with the governor this morning, proposes that the court could settle the question, under chapter 367 of the acts of 1910. He suggested, according to the governor, that representatives of the Negro race meet at his office tomorrow and apply for a complaint. If the court finds, after a hearing, that the law has been violated, Mr. O'Meara will make a finding that the play is immoral and obscene and will notify Mayor Curley to that effect. Governor Walsh said he thought this would be a happy solution of the entire problem. If the court should make an adverse ruling, then the governor will send a special message to the legislature asking for a new law.

The committee representing the Negro citizens of Boston was asked to assemble in the executive council chamber at 11:30 a. m., after waiting for nearly three hours in Doric hall to meet the governor. Shortly before the governor received the committee the newspaper men were asked to leave the council chamber. The governor intended to have a stenographer prepare the statement for the newspapers, but it was not ready at 2:30 p. m., because of changes which Mr. Walsh made in the original copy. After the governor had concluded his address the reporters were permitted to re-enter the council chamber, and hear the impassioned speeches of the committee members.

Elizabeth Putnam thought the play was decidedly immoral, saying she never saw anything quite "so low."

"The question has been whether the play is injurious or is liable to cause race hatred," said a Dr. Roberts. "The demonstration before the theatre Saturday night answers both questions. Some way must be found to stop the production of the film The play is affecting 10,000,000 people in the United States. We ask you to use your influence in putting through some law to stop any play that will cause race hatred or riots."

Goddard Spofford said: "This play is an attack on the public and is a menace to the colored people. Men and boys shout at us on the streets as we pass by. I fear that the Boston police have not given the colored people proper protection since this play began here. The play is a menace to the public peace of Boston.

"This play is a studied political trick," shouted a Dr. McKay. "It is aimed at you, governor, just as much as it is aimed at us. I say it is a trick by certain southerners to capture the north."

A Rev. Mr. Horton of Cambridge declared that speakers had come to Cambridge schools and urged the pupils to see the film. He asserted that race prejudice should not be instilled in the hearts of school children.

Mr. Trotter said that almost all Negroes thought an outrage had been committed against the state by allowing the production of the play. "We ask you to stand up and protect the history, the name and the ideals of this commonwealth," he said. "We are glad that you are our governor at a time like this."

Another speaker alleged that the intent of the play was to arouse public sentiment so that all colored people would be deported from the country. C. H. Dickinson of Alabama, a school superintendent, said the respected people of the south deploded all plays similar to that under discussion.

When the speaking had been concluded, Mr. Trotter asked the governor to appear on the state house steps and speak to the crowd. The governor declined, saying that such action might call forth criticism that he did so for sensational purposes. He authorized Mr. Trotter to speak for him.

While the conference was going on within the state house the throng of four or five thousand Negroes outside on the steps alternately listened to the exhortations and hanged Thomas Dixen, D. W. Griffith or Jeff Davis to a sour apple tree, to the tune of John Brown's body. For a while interest was intense, but, as the hours dragged along, oratory began to lag and even the stimulating music of "The Fight Is Won," led by a sister jammed against the state house door lost some of its effect.

The crowd was nervous and excitable. There was so much hissing when "America" was being sung that the leading singers stopped. There was also hissing, though in smaller volume, when "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung.

William Munroe Trotter presided at the speaking outside the state house, and Joseph A. Crawford, Rev. Ormond Walker, Rev. Benjamin W. Swain addressed the crowd, denouncing "The Birth of a Nation." Professor Allen W. Whaley of New York had the hardest task, for he attempted to talk until the governor's decision should be handed down. He did it, but he took the Negro race through history from the time it left Africa up to the present, and, through the throng occasionally preferred a little more "John Brown's body." to his oratory, he was not discouraged, and continued when the singing let up.

"We are engaged in the greatest work the Negro has undertaken since he came from chattel slavery," he said. "We are here to tell not only Governor Walsh, but the whole nation, that we want justice and that we have been downtrodden long enough, and will stand no more. The Negro has unsheathed his sword. We are here to tell Thomas Dixon and his damnable crowd that the American Negro is great enough and powerful and rich enough to scatter in 10,000 pieces such work as he has done. When we are through with him he will look like an infinitesimal abso-

Tuskegee Institute, Ala., May 11, 1915

Editor Atlanta Independent:

Sir:—I wish to urge our people everywhere to "take time by the forelock" and adopt in advance such measures as will prevent the production of the photo play "The Birth of a Nation" in any community, North or South. It will be a serious and grave mistake to wait until the pictures are actually being exhibited in these cities and then attempt to close them up. The weakness of this plan has been clearly demonstrated in New York and Boston.

Another and more important reason for taking preventive measures is that once the play has been put on in a city, the managers encourage and even skilfully initiate opposition on account of the advertising the play receives when attempts are made to stop it. The people in Chicago are acting very wisely in forestalling its appearance; and this is the policy which it would be well for every community to pursue.

In each town where there is a possibility of this play being put on, it would be well to have a committee of citizens representing the churches, the schools and the business men to take the initiative in lodging a suitable objection.

The play is fundamentally wrong in that it attempts to deal with the development of American since the abolition of slavery by ignoring the substantial progress of the Negro race and emphasizing the cruel misunderstanding of the redajustment period in which unfortunate individuals of both races figured. No matter how many other artistic and historic features the play may have, its ultimate result will be to intensify race prejudice and thereby do great and lasting harm to both races.

BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Race Problem-1915
United States

Here is an interesting picture of the class that graduated from Brown's Embalming School, Raleigh, N. C., May 4, 1915. This group shows how sensibly the two races may come together without contamination and friction. Much of the race friction is unnatural and made to order. When the races are left free to exercise their common sense, in both there is always harmony. The three young men found in the group took their studies in embalming along with the class and had the respect and good will of all members of the class. The picture is one of the finest illustrations of inter-racial co-operation and good will we have ever seen. We hear so much about race friction and race wars that it is refreshing to look at the picture. Its presentation in these columns is fully justified. The three colored young men successfully passed the State Board with high marks, John Thompson making 100, Aaron McNiel 99 5-6, and John Ray 99 1-2.

Southwestern
5/28/15
Courier-Journal
Advertiser 8-27-1
August 27 1915

TREATMENT OF THE NEGRO.

Editor The Advertiser:

Writing as a Southern man, a native of Alabama, and coming from a family of slave-holders, the present writer can hardly be accused of undue partisan influence in behalf of the negro. This is said in no apologetic way for this slight deliverance in behalf of the black man, but in perhaps necessary explanation to such as do not know the writer. It has been only within the fewest years of the immediate past that the interest of one in the race of blacks has been allowed expression even to a moderate degree, for after the lapse of fifty years the embers of the great conflict in which slavery perished are still hot, if one but deeply enough sti rthe ashes.

In the mistaken treatment of the negro in the outset we proceeded on the basis of certain theories which operated on us with all the force and effect of facts, yet these theories have gone to naught in the light of development. So far from yielding good to the race of whites these theories have only brought forth evil, not to the negro only, but the white race as well. One of these dominant theories of the past was that of withholding from utterance or expression any commendation of the negro lest he be lifted above himself and be emboldened to assume undue consequence to the detriment of the white race. Yet, where the opposite course has been pursued, as it has in many localities in the South, the results have been to the contrary. That is to say, plainly and unequivocally that where the negro has been properly respected, becomingly treated as a man, has been duly recognized as worthy of consideration by according to him a fair chance and simple justice, he has never failed to become a valuable asset to society. On the other hand, where there has been a studious effort to suppress the black man, to mistreat him, to establish one standard of justice for him and another for the race of whites, there have inevitably been disturbance, demoralization, backwardness, and much else to the detriment of the public good.

Another theory has been that of the exercise of force toward the negro rather than that of suasion, and the gentler methods of treatment. Few thought of treating a negro gently, and few of the exercise of suasion as a means of amendment of race conduct. No, he must be forced to do, hence there were kept before him the terrors of the nightly lash, the jail, the chain-gang, the penitentiary, and especially the vengeance and violence of mobocracy. It need scarcely be said that this is the reflection of the regime of slavery.

Nor has there been lacking sufficient ruffianism to put these into exercise, a type of ruffianism of just sufficient judgment and discrimination to induce the sentiment that this criminal violence is an exhibition of chivalry. Procedures like those named, while not directly encouraged by those on the higher stratum of thought, have yet been sufficiently blinked to serve to give encouragement to these aspects of wanton lawlessness. While mobocracy stands on our statute books as murder, and it may be added murder of the most cowardly type, and while condemned by inspiration, it has not been without indirect encouragement by public indifference, where quiescence had all the effect to wrong-doers of acquiesecnce, the result of which has been that the ruffian elements have been propelled upward in the estimation of their deeds and in their perpetuation, as well. It requires but a moment to see what the effect has been on society and the general good.

To be more explicit and concrete, it has yielded a harvest of men in high position like unto Blease of South Carolina, and Vardaman and Bilbo of Mississippi, not to extend the list further. For their elevation a certain class of men who else would have never been known beyond their native horizons, have risen into prominence by racial rancor and by an appeal to the least thoughtful, though the most passionate and prejudiced. Nor is this spirit without logical association with the riots in Atlanta a few years ago, and just recently in the chaotic demonstrations in Georgia. Of course, Leo Frank was not a negro, but a Jew, and by parity of racial reasoning to those whose narrow reasoning has its abundant limitations, that which would admit of appliction to one race would also to another. Once unsluiced lawlessness finds no bounds. Going from pitch to pitch, mobocracy threatens the majesty of the law by seeking to do violence to the Governor of Georgia, for what? For daring to execute the law as he cautiously and deliberately understood it under the solemn sanction of an oath. But then ruffianism did not agree with him, hence he must be punished. How much better is the situation when the mayor of Georgia's chief city says that it will not be safe for the recently retired Governor to return? Or again, how much has the situation improved when the present executive, by candestine notes is duly notified that he would not better push his investigations of the murder of Frank "too far." What can all this mean but the demand of the surrender of constituted authority and all the safeguards of society to the dictates of the violent mob? Yet, here is the result of mob violence which has been suffered to stalk abroad for many years together. If the wind is sown, the whirlwind is reaped.

For a season mob violence was restricted to a certain alleged crime, but it widened in its scope till it has come to challenge the exercise of the law and to deny protection to those over whom the State spreads its protection. What is done in consequence? Just that which has been for years—a shudder of horror is experienced, a shrugging of shoulders, till another outbreak occurs. Begun on negroes, it has come to include the highest functionaries of the law. It does not involve the slightest passion to say that not a little of this spirit has been derived from a silent public sentiment. Engrossed in private affairs and affected by an environment purely commercial, many of our people are like those described in an elegy of one of the Latin poets, when he says:

"The sailor of winds, of cattle the farmer talks;
The soldier counts his wounds, the shepherd his sheep."

An illustration of this spirit was afforded on the streets of Atlanta the other day when a merchant naively remarked concerning the Frank murder: "Well, I am glad it is all over—now we can go to business."

All of this relates itself either directly or indirectly with the treatment of the negro. The result is as

Cottage Gardens

Speaking of the value of the cottage garden, with its flowers, vines, shrubs and other ornamentations of the backyard, the Louisville Courier takes occasion to remark about the tendency of the American negro to surround himself with flowers and greenery and to cultivate a patch of ground. "The one or two-room cabin," it says, "neatly whitewashed, a grape vine over the door, a climbing rosebush, lilacs, snowballs and other shrubs, an assortment of old-fashioned perennial flowers, a few geese a larger flock of chickens, a pen o pigs, and turkeys where there is suf ficient space over the fences and upor the acres of lenient neighbors, marl the typical permanent domicile of th American negro. The picture is one of thrift which makes the home making negro independent—some times abominably so in the eyes of white neighbors who would employ him or his womenfolk—and also is indicative of his ready acquisitions of one of the evidences of essential civilization."

This is a description of the Southern appreciation of the natural ability of the negro which northerners have little understood. It is full of the spirit of hope for the settlement of one of the most vexatious problems in this country. Such negro cabins have untold potentialities. They presage the development of a people under the most hopeful circumstances and the improved civilization of a race. The South has its problem, and the color line remains, but those who love flowers and cultivate gardens will find a place for themselves in the fulness of time. And it is infinitely more encouraging to consider this phase of the southern negro question than keep continually in mind the other incidents which seem to reveal the presence of race hatred.

natural as the law of gravity. He has all along been scorned, despised, and abused as unworthy till he comes before the tribunals of the courts, which may be said to be the only place where genuine equality is recognized, a fact due to the other fact that punishment is to be administered. We often subject the negro in his dependable condition to the severest tests of life, physical, educational, political and moral, and when after this he fails, we cynically say: "Ah, well, the nigger is no good any way." We segregate, alienate, and irritate the negro and then charge on him the consequences. One of the latest fads is that of denying him, by legislative enactment, instruction by white teachers. The fallacy of a procedure like this is so manifest that it is scarcely decent to accord to it serious contention. Not content with doling out to him the slimmest amount possible of the public school fund, we now set to work with serious legislation to do what? To cut him off from the possible means of instruction from whites who may be disposed to render such aid, as though the bondage of ignorance was ever a boon to any one. Much more humane and logical would it be to encourage this very thing of whites giving such instruction as opportunity offers. But then the bugaboo of "social equality," ttat cheap slogan of cheap politics is raised. But, nobody knows of an instance any where, the result of which has been that of social equality. Just where enlightenment is most needed it is legislatively denied. But then Florida led the way, Georgia followed, and of course Alabama must join the procession. The aim of the blow is against the negro, but since he is about one-third of the population of the South, the effect will be against the entire framework of society, since social interests are common and to cripple or to break down one class is to harm all.

Unstinted commendation should be accorded leading journals like The Constitution, of Atlanta, and The Advertiser, of Montgomery, for their opposition to this course of fallacious and hurtful legislation. Our best people should always exercise moral courage by taking a sane and pronounced position on the question of the treatment of the negro. The sooner it is done the sooner shall we come to see its salutary results.

B. F. RILEY.

Birmingham, Ala.

AND THEY WILL STILL WONDER.

FOR intellectual vigor, depth of thought, clarity of vision, grasp of perplexing problems, style and felicity of expression, the editor of the Christian Advocate, General organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, published in Nashville, Tennessee, stands in a class of editors that is not too large. His editorial selections are apt and vital; his dissertations are sane, yet virile; never pedantic, but always bearing the mark of perspicacity. His love for history and close observation of the present are evidenced in much of his writings; and an occasional glimpse into the future is also afforded by the fertility of his imaginative genius. An instance of the latter was observed in the issue of April 23 under the caption "They Will Wonder." It is so pertinent and rich in suggestion that we reproduce it here:

"Several decades hence our children and grandchildren will be wondering:

"How it was possible for the war which is now devastating parts of several continents and sending its thunders over the waters of every ocean and sea to occur at a time of great boasting over the progress and triumphs of Christian civilization.

"That as late as the second decade of the twentieth century the saloon was not only tolerated by the people of the community and State, but actually protected by the Federal government in the issuance of a Federal license.

"That for years after the War between the States Episcopal Methodism in the United States consented to exist in two bodies divided only by sectional lines.

"That there ever was a time in Methodism when the salary of the preacher was called an 'allowance,' and that a charge which had not paid the assessed salary felt itself absolved from its obligation just after the preacher started to the Annual Conference.

"That there ever was a Methodist preacher who wore himself out in the service of his Church and Master and was allowed by his brethren to be deprived of that competence which God intends shall be furnished to him through the Church.

"That there ever was a time in the history of the Church when a minister could ignore the value of Christian literature and still feel that he was doing his whole duty."

And we may add the caption of this observation: **They Will Still Wonder.**

"**They Will Wonder**" why 10,000,000 Afro-American citizens, not inferior in innate capacity, moral susceptibility, loyalty, patriotism and patient suffering, were vigorously persecuted and persistently oppressed by a civilized, Christian nation. "**They Will Wonder**" how such a system of unrighteous discrimination against the helpless, defenseless, yet loyal and patriotic citizens could be instituted and allowed to grow to such gigantic proportion in a Christian nation and backed by the sentiment of a people boasting, not only of their excellence in civilization, but also of their superior Christian virtues.

"**They Will Wonder**" why the religious press and pulpit, so clear sighted, vigiliant and courageously assertive on all public wrongs, political, social, economic, national and inter-national, were so silent on mobbing, lynching and burning of innocent, industrious, law-abiding Afro-Americans.

And that is not all. Some of the people who live and act now are going to do some wondering, too, by-and-by. They are going to wonder why the Judge, who will be right, should order the door closed eternally against them; they are going to wonder why Jesus Christ, at that particular time, will not know them. They are going to wonder when it was that they saw the Lord hungry or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison; or when they saw him dejected, humiliated and pushed into dirty Jim-crow arrangements with almost incredible indignities for which he had to pay first class fare; or when they saw him innocently mobbed; and failed in all these conditions to minister unto him. Yes, "**they will wonder.**"

THE INFERIORITY OF THE NEGRO.

"Life," that delightful weekly which adds to the gaiety of the nation, hits it off quite splendidly in the little editorial expression which follows. "Life" says:

"Our friends down South, being sure that the Negroes are inferior, deny them advantages and provide inferior schools for Negro children in order that they will continue to be inferior and thus prove the correctness of the contention of scientists and sentimentalists that the Negro is inferior. After all, there is nothing quite so satisfying as the feeling that you have got things fixed so that you will always have an inferior race in your midst."

Now, ain't that just so?

Unbequeme Gleichheit.

Eine Entſcheidung des oberſten Gerichtshofs der Vereinigten Staaten erinnert unwillkürlich daran, daß, wenn man ſich ſo draſtiſch ausdrücken will wie jener Dichter es that, wir uns in einem großen Gleichheitsſtall befinden, in dem Freiheitsflegel leben. Es wird nämlich jetzt klar und deutlich beſtimmt, daß Neger in politiſcher Beziehung den Weißen gleichgeſtellt werden müſſen.

Nach dem Bürgerkrieg wurde ein Zuſatz zur Verfaſſung angenommen, demzufolge keinem Bürger der Vereinigten Staaten das Wahlrecht vorenthalten werden ſolle, ſofern die Verweigerung desſelben ſich auf Hautfarbe, Raſſe oder den Zuſtand früherer Dienſtbarkeit gründe. Die Neger mußten alſo, auch in den Südſtaaten das Stimmrecht erhalten. Lange Jahre aber war das Wählen eine Farce, denn die „Schießprügel- und Schnaps"-Politik herrſchte vor. Der Neger, welcher ſtimmen wollte, hatte die Wahl, entweder für einen Weißen bezw. einen Demokraten, zu ſtimmen und einen Schnaps zu bekommen, oder aber für einen Stammesgenoſſen bezw. einen Republikaner einzutreten und ſich im unvermutheten Beſitz einer blauen Bohne zu ſehen. Mit der fortſchreitenden Kultur aber verfielen die Bewohner der Südſtaaten auf ein anderes Mittel, die Neger zu entrechten. Sie kamen auf die Idee, nur Denjenigen das Stimmrecht zu gewähren, die leſen und ſchreiben können. Das iſt natürlich nicht verfaſſungswidrig, denn dieſe Künſte hängen ja nicht von der Hautfarbe, der Raſſe oder dem Zuſtande früherer Dienſtbarkeit ab. Aber einen Vorbehalt gab es doch dabei: Perſonen, deren Vorfahren ſchon vor dem Ende des Bürgerkriegs das Stimmrecht hatten, ſollten unter allen Umſtänden wahlberechtigt ſein. Das bedeutete alſo, daß, mit Ausnahme ſehr weniger Perſonen, alle Neger vom Wahlrecht ausgeſchloſſen ſein ſollten, während alle Weißen ſtimmen durften. Die naturaliſirten Bürger waren durch beſondere Beſtimmungen geſchützt. Es iſt nun ſtets die Politik der Südſtaaten geweſen, die Neger in Unwiſſenheit zu erhalten, mithin wäre die Herrſchaft der Weißen eine unbeſtrittene geblieben, wenn die erwähnten ſogenannten „Großvater-Geſetze" als rechtsbeſtändig erkannt worden wären.

Nun hat aber der oberſte Gerichtshof den Bewohnern der Südſtaaten einen Strich durch die Rechnung gemacht. Sie werden jetzt ſchwerlich noch ein Mittel finden, auf geſetzlichem Wege die Neger daran zu verhindern, die Herrſchaft an ſich zu reißen. Aber daß, ſelbſt in den Landestheilen, wo die Schwarzen in der Mehrzahl ſind, dieſe das Heft in die Hand bekommen können, iſt abſolut ausgeſchloſſen. Wenn das der Fall wäre, würden z. B. Miſſiſſippi mit ſeinen 786,000 Weißen gegen 1,008,000 Negern und South Carolina (668,000 Weiße und 835,000 Neger) ſofort ſchwarze Staats-Verwaltungen erhalten und jedes County würde „ſchwarz" werden. Die Weißen, welche jetzt dort herrſchen, werden ihrer Macht aber nicht entſagen, ſondern ſie auf alle mögliche, auch ungeſetzliche Mittel zu befeſtigen trachten. Wenn man ſich die Sache ruhig überlegt, iſt es ſchwer, ihnen daraus einen Vorwurf zu machen. Wir hier im Norden, haben ganz gut reden, die Gleichheit der Bürger müſſe unter allen Umſtänden gewahrt bleiben. Aber wenn die Probe aufs Exempel käme, d. h. wenn hier die Negerherrſchaft eingeführt werden ſollte, würden manche Leute aus einem anderen Tone ſingen.

Race Problem - 1915
United States

APR 22 1915

SOUTH THE PLACE FOR COLORED MAN

Bishop Coppin So Advises His Hearers At Session Of Virginia A. M. E. Conference

STANDING COMMITTEES WERE NAMED YESTERDAY

With Bishop L. J. Coppin of Philadelphia presiding for his seventh consecutive term, the forty-ninth annual session of the Virginia Conference of the A. M. E. church was officially opened at 9 o'clock yesterday morning at St. John's A. M. E. church in Bute street, of which Rev. Dr. E. H. Hunter is pastor.

Rev. Daniel Mays of Cave Springs, Va., delivered the opening prayer, This was followed by the reading of the scripture by Bishop Coppin. The church was crowded and the meeting was harmonious.

Bishop Coppin Advises Delegates

Bishop Coppin who is one of the most influential leaders of his race, took advantage of the opportunity to deliver some wholesome advice to the delegates and those present at the session. He said the South is the place for the colored people to prove themselves by living pure lives, reading the scripture, being honest, truthful, law-abiding and working for the best interests of both races, white and colored and thereby bringing about a better spirit between the race in the South.

Bishop Coppin had on the rostrum with him yesterday morning, the five presiding elders of the conference, as follows: Rev. George R. Jones, presiding elder of the Roanoke district; Rev. George E. Jammerson, presiding elder of the Portsmouth district; Rev. C. R. Sanders of the Norfolk district; Rev. O. T. Day of the Richmond district, and Rev. O. E. Bumgardner of the Staunton district. Rev. R. C. Ransone, editor of the A. M. E. Review; Rev. J. I. Low, business manager of the A. M. E. church; Rev. M. E. Davis of Portsmouth, and Rev. Daniel Mays of Cave Springs, Va., were also on the rostrum.

Rev. W. R. Howercorn of Suffolk was elected chief secretary of the conference. He appointed Rev. L. L. Berry of Berkley recording secretary, and Rev. J. H. Ross of Staunton, statistician. Rev. W. J. Miller, pastor of the church of Lynchburg and principal of the graded school at Irvington, Va., was designated as reporter of the conference to report the proceedings for the press.

An important feature of yesterday morning's session was the administering of Holy Communion to the conference and congregation by Bishop Coppin, the presiding elder and the general officers.

Standing Committee Named

Bishop Coppin appointed a number of standing committees to report later on the various activities of the church. A large part of the morning and afternoon sessions was taken up by the reports of ministers on the work of pastoral charges. Notwithstanding the hard winter, the reports showed a marked increase along all lines.

Rev. Dr. E. H. Hunter, pastor of St. John's A. M. E. church in Norfolk, made an excellent report, having collected $10,180 from the congregation during the past year. Dr. Hunter is a strong debater and forceful preacher.

A special order of yesterday was the setting of 11 o'clock this morning for the election of five ministerial delegates and five alternates to the general conference which meets in Philadelphia in 1916. There are many aspirants to attend the session.

Members of the conference are enthusiastic in their praise of the welcome address which was delivered to them Tuesday night by Mayor Wyndham R. Mayo, at the reception given at St. John's church.

Bishop Coppin yesterday introduced the general officers and visitors to the general conference, among them his wife, who prior to her marriage was a physician. She addressed the conference and promised to do her best in holding up the arms of the bishop in administering to his best efforts of the church and race.

Annual Sermon

The annual sermon was preached last night by Rev. Isaac Ewer of Danville, and was heard by a large congregation. The speaker delivered an interesting sermon from the text, "Go ye into all the world and preach my gospel to every creature."

At the close of the sermon a collection aggregating $220.30 was received. Tonight a missionary meeting will be held. It will be conducted by the leading women of the conference. Dr. R. C. Ransom will speak during this meeting. Also a paper will be read by J. W. Wright of Accomac.

Columbia, S. C.

APR 23 1915

The Outlook for the Negro

About one-tenth of the present population of the United States is colored. The welfare of these people is a matter of deepest concern with every Christian citizen. The American negro is a unique figure in history. The study of his case has to be made without reference to parallels for there are none. It is not necessary here to review his past, for those who read these lines are familiar with his pathetic story. But we can scarcely give serious study to his future in the light of his present. He is no longer a slave, or a serf. He is a free man who can do but little for himself in the midst of friends who can not solve the problem of how to help him. Thrown abruptly upon his own responsibility, in two generations he has almost wrecked the finest physical frame any man ever had. He was misled at the most critical period of his history and has suffered from bad leadership and lack of leadership ever since. He does not trust leaders of his own race and nobody else seems to be in a position to direct his destiny. His condition is pitiable. The Christian worker recognizes the problems connected with his spiritual needs. The employer recognizes the characteristic limitations to his usefulness in industrial and agricultural organizations. It is more of a question than ever as to what kind of education would bring the greatest good to him. He is being gradually but surely crowded out of remunerative employment, without any set purpose or program on the part of anybody to do that. A few years ago, in the South especially, nearly all of the trades were operated by negroes—painting, carpentering, brick-laying and the rest. Nearly all barbers were negroes. Now white men, associated with each other in labor unions, are gradually excluding the negro from these trades, and within the last fifteen years he has been almost eliminated from them. The negro has not been a success, when left to himself, as an agriculturist. Most of the criticism of the South with reference to its unproductiveness and unattractiveness is placed upon the negro tenant, who impoverishes land and operates with notorious slipshodedness. The result is that those who know what unparalleled agricultural possibilities there are in Southern lands are busy now in every Southern State with plans to divide large tracts into small farms and to increase the white farming population. This again means the elimination of the negro from the country. Recently some of the leading railroads have employed white waitresses for the dining cars, and first class hotels are employing white help in every section of the country. What is there left for the ten millions of negroes to do? We have no answer to the question. If we pauperize the negro more than we have done can we expect anything else than crime from him, petty and gross? The purpose of these lines is not to offer a solution, for we have none, but to raise questions for others to think about The combined wisdom of missionaries social specialists and economists will not be more than is needed. The questions of social equality and of citizenship, so long in the foreground, now sink into comparative insignificance alongside of this question of where and how the ten millions of negroes in the United States can live?

State

NEGRO MORTALITY RATE DECREASING

Home Ownership Among Them is Increasing.

GOING TO THE CITIES

Bureau of Census Analyzes Returns—Negroes Still Outnumber the Whites Here.

The bureau of the census has sent out advance sheets from the bulletin on the negroes in the United States which it will soon issue. The bulletin will show that there has been among the negroes an increasing tendency toward home ownership, a marked increase in the percentage of school attendance, a pronounced decrease in illiteracy, especially among young negroes, a decrease in the mortality rate and an increase in the proportion of church membership.

In 1910 the negroes, including mulattoes, were 10.7 per cent. of the total population of the United States. In Mississippi and South Carolina the negro population was more than 50 per cent. of the total in 1910, 56.2 per cent. and 55.2 per cent., respectively.

The census bulletin on the negroes will show that the tendency of the race in the United States to move from rural to urban communities is becoming more pronounced, the percentage of negroes in rural districts having decreased from 80.2 in 1890 to 72.6 in 1910.

The sex distribution of the negroes in the United States is on the basis of 98.9 males to 100 females, while for the native whites of native parentage the ratio is 104 males to 100 females.

Interstate migration is apparently less extensive among the negro population than among the whites. In 1910, 83.4 per cent. of the native negroes in the United States were living in the States in which they were born, while only 77.6 per cent. of the American-born whites were residing in their native States.

Twelve States—Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Mississippi, Louisiana, Delaware and Maine—have lost more than they have gained in negro population through interstate migration, while all the other States have gained more than they have lost from this cause. The net losses of the first-named three States were: Virginia, 206,764; South Carolina, 121,479; North Carolina, 109,751. It is a noteworthy fact that the greatest net gain in negro population from this cause, 105,516, was shown by Arkansas, a Southern State.

In a chat a couple of weeks ago about a bulletin on "Negroes in the United States" soon to be issued by the Bureau of Census, we restricted our comments to the number of that race, the percentage of increase and the distribution in urban and rural communities. We will talk today of another matter in connection with the negroes of this country. For instance, the sex distribution of the negroes in the United States is upon a basis of 98.9 males to 100 females, and the statistics show a tendency on their part to marry at earlier ages than is the case among the white race. The figures for married, widowed and divorced persons taken as a group between the ages of 20 and 24 inclusive are 39.6 for negroes to 27 for whites. The latest statistics of religious bodies show that there are 36,770 negro church organizations, with 3,685,097 communicants. Between 1890 and 1906 the number of church organizations increased by 56.7 per cent. and number of communicants by 37.8 per cent., the increase in negro population during the same period being 26:1 per cent.

* * *

Interstate migration is apparently less extensive among the negro population that among the whites. In 1910, 83.4 per cent of the native negroes were living in the states in which they were born, while only 77.6 per cent of the American-born whites were residing in their native states. Twelve states—Virginia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Tennessee, Maryland, Mississippi, Louisiana, Delaware and Maine—have lost more than they have gained in negro population through interstate migration, while all the other states have gained more than they have lost from this cause. The net losses of the first-named three states were Virginia, 206,764; South Carolina, 121,479; North Carolina, 109,751. It is a noteworthy fact that the greatest net gain in negro population from this cause, 105,516, was shown by Arkansas, a southern state.

In 1910 there were in the southern states 1,817,391 negro homes, of which

430,449, or 22.4 per cent, were owned, of all, which were owned free of incumbrance. In 1900 the percentage of owned homes was 20. The highest percentage of owned negro homes in any of the southern states in 1910 was that for Virginia, 41.3, while the lowest, 14.7, was found in Georgia. Statistics are also shown for all southern municipalities of 5,000 or more negro inhabitants.

* * *

Of the total number of 7,317,922 negroes 10 years of age and over, enumerated in 1910, 5,102,535, or 71 per cent, were reported as gainfully employed, the percentages for males and females being 87.4 and 54.7 respectively. The corresponding percentages for native whites were 77.9 and 19.2. Of the gainfully employed negro males, 30.9 per cent.—almost one-third—were farm laborers, and 25 per cent were farmers. The other leading occupation groups for negro males, with the percentage of the total represented by each, were as follows: Laborers, building and hand trades, 5.2; laborers, saw and planing mills, 2.9; laborers, steam railroad, 2.7; porters, except in stores, 1.6; draymen, teamsters and expressmen, 1.6; coal mine operatives, 1.2; laborers, porters and helpers in stores, 1.2; waiters, 1.1; laborers, road and street building and repairing, 1.1; cooks, 1.0; deliverymen, stores, 1.0; carpenters, 1.0.

Farms operated by negroes in 1910 numbered 893,370, and were valued at $1,142,000. The total number of farms in the United States in that year was 6,361,502, and their value was $40,991,449,000. Ninety-eight and six-tenths per cent of the negro farms were situated in the south. The increases between 1900 and 1910 in number and value of farms operated by negroes were at the rate of 19.6 per cent and 128.4 per cent, respectively, while the corresponding increases for farms operated by whites were 95 per cent and 99.6 per cent respectively. For females, the leading capacities in which employed, with the percentage represented by each, were as follows: Farm laborers, 48.1; laundresses (not in laundry), 17.9; cooks, 10.2; farmers, 3.9; dressmakers and seamstresses (not in factory), 1.9; school teachers, 1.1.

* * *

Of the negro population 6 to 20 years of age, inclusive, 47.3 per cent were attending school in 1910, as compared with 66.9 per cent of the native whites of native parentage in the same age group. In thirteen cities—Baltimore, Boston, Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Mo., Louisville, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Washington—each of which had in 1910 a total population of 10,000 or more, the highest percentage among negroes 6 to 20 years of age was found in Boston, where it was 67.2 per cent, as compared with 73.3 per cent for native whites of native parentage. The highest percentage of school attendance among negroes 6 to 20 years of age for any state was found in Connecticut, 67.1, and the lowest in Louisiana, 28.9.

The percentage of illiteracy (inability to write) among the negro population 10 years of age and over was 30.4 for the United States as a whole, as compared with 3.7 per cent for the native whites of native parentage. The continual improvement in educational opportunities offered to the negro race is strikingly shown by the fact that in almost every state and city the percentage of illiteracy among negroes is consistently lower in the younger generations than in the older. For example, in Georgia the percentage of illiteracy among negroes 10 to 14 years of age was 22.1; 15 to 24 years, 26.9; 25 to 34 years, 32.7;; 35 to 44 years, 43; 45 to 54 years, 57.6; 55 to 64 years, 70.3; and 65 years and over, 79.2 per cent. The lowest percentage of illiteracy among the negro population 10 years of age and over in any of the states, 3.4 was found in Minnesota and Oregon, while the highest, 48.4, was shown by Louisiana.

* * *

Despite anything that may be said to the contrary, the official figures prove that there is a steady uplift in the condition of the negro race in the United States.

LOUISVILLE, KY
TIMES

FEB 1 1915

STEPS TAKEN TO FATHOM THREATS

Authorities Confer Over Attempt to Burn Down School For Negroes.

A conference between Samuel D. Jones, business director of the Board of Education, Chief of Police H. Watson Lindsey, Capt. George Brown, of the Sixth district, and Deputy Fire Marshal Edward Bright, was held at the Chief's office to-day to determine the best course to pursue in running down the persons who attempted to set fire to the Paul Dunbar Colored School, at Eighth and Kentucky streets, early Saturday morning.

The fire, which is the third attempt within eight months, followed the receipt of a note Friday threatening destruction to the building because "niggers in Louisville are gettin' too much education." The janitor of the building discovered the attempt when he opened the doors Saturday morning and found the stairs and woodwork of the walls had been blistered and a curtain burned. A bottle which had contained gasoline was found on the stairway.

The note containing the message was scribbled on a card bearing a heavy black border. It was found in the yard by one of the pupils who gave it to the principal. Besides threatening the destruction of the property if the teaching of negroes did not stop, it was signed, "The White People."

A number of clews have been investigated by the police and school authorities but nothing definite has been found in the case. Considerable damage was entailed the second time the building was set afire which occurred seven months ago.

PHILADELPHIA PRESS

10 July 1915

BAILEY DEFENDS COLORED RACE

Former Senator Tells Md. Lawyers South Will Work Out Destiny.

Special Despatch to "The Press."

Cape May, N. J., July 9.—Ex-Senator Joseph W. Bailey, of Texas, was the chief speaker at to-day's session of the Maryland Bar Association. He spoke extemporaneously for one hour this morning on "Lawyers in General."

In the course of his address he paid a glowing tribute to Thomas Jefferson, calling him the greatest of all Americans and regretting that because of the personal and political animosity existing between Jefferson and Chief Justice Marshall the former had mistrusted the courts and was led to speak harshly of them.

Speaking of the colored race, Mr. Bailey said he liked the colored man in his proper place, "but that place is not at the white man's table."

"The South," he said, "will work out the destiny of the colored race side by side with the colored man. The colored man is more desirable than many Europeans. He never is an Anarchist or Socialist, and never attempts to stop the war in Europe by planting bombs in the Capitol at Washington."

This afternoon's session was taken up with reports of committees and election of officers. Judge Hammond Ulmer, of Frederick, was elected president, and James W. Chapman and R. Bennett Darnall, of Baltimore, were elected respectively secretary and treasurer.

This evening the lawyers and their ladies attended the annual banquet, at which Samuel S. Field, of Baltimore, was toastmaster. Major Randolph Barton, Judge Hammond Ulmer and Hon. John W. Davis were the speakers.

Chicago Tribune

February 1915

NEGRO BUSINESS MEN IN SOUTH.

Selma, Ala., Feb. 1.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—I have read your editorial on the Frank case. There may be prejudice in Atlanta against the Jew of which I am ignorant and have no comment to make, but the statement quoted below is so grossly false I am sure, as the editor of a fair minded paper, you will be glad to correct it:

"In the south they do not hate the negroes. They don't respect them, they deny rights to, disfranchise, lynch, and pity them; but they do not hate them. To hate them would mean some acknowledgment of the equality between white and black which no true southerner will admit." Further, the "negro's chances for arousing the hatred of the white by commercial jealousy are automatically obviated because he is not allowed to have any business except that of being a servant."

To learn that in the south the negro is not "allowed" to enter any business is truly an astonishing piece of news! Here in Selma, Ala., we have negro doctors, dentists, teachers, merchants, barbers, coal dealers, dressmakers, hairdressers, plumbers, tinners, undertakers, and bankers, besides others we might mention.

One of the best paperhangers in town is a negro who carries his own stock of goods and whose trade is, I dare say, 99 per cent white.

One of the best dressmakers in town is a negro woman who is extensively patronized by the wealthy white women of the city. The same is true of our negro plumber, coal merchant, barber, and tailor.

What is true of Selma is also true of Atlanta, Montgomery, Birmingham, and other southern cities. In all of these cities well known streets are given up to different business enterprises conducted by negroes, from moving picture shows to furniture and grocery stores. Does this look as if the negro is not "allowed" to go into business?

All the negroes in business here have the respect and esteem of the white people among whom they live.

ELLEN RUSH STURDIVANT.

NEW YORK WORLD

24 June 1915

THE REBIRTH OF THE NEGRO.

Once he was fuel for the mad mob's flame—
His liberty a mockery and shame.
Now see him stand upon the sunrise slope,
His black face golden with the light of hope!

Back through our Freedom's glowing centuries,
Still was he beaten to his calloused knees;
A field dog, fawning as the lash increased;
A blending of the baby and the beast!

Once he was bidden, "Rise and drink free air!
Your chains are off!" A lie! the chains were there!
The Goddess Freedom, with a sneering smile,
Swept down her torch to light his lynching pile!

Child of the state, yet outcast by the state;
Object of mingled pity, tolerance, hate;
Mocked, crushed by men who never thought it sin
To make his soul as blackened as his skin.

They fettered him with fetters of misrule;
They put a spike-crowned wall about the school;
They classed him as below the sheep and goat;
Then cried, "You see! he is not fit to vote!"

A rock-pile and a chain-gang for a race,
Merely because God gave a different face!
And when a voice crude eloquence outflung,
They silenced him by cutting out his tongue!

But the black night in which his soul lay black,
Flees the new dawn, and ne'er shall it roll back.
See, white as snow, above all passions grim,
The soul a Raceless God bestowed on him!

Brave Act of a Negro.

(Trenton Herald-Democrat.)

The Herald-Democrat feels that it cannot commend too highly the action of the negro, Henry Taylor, in saving from drowning the little girl last Saturday afternoon. It was an act of heroism that many men his superiors would have hesitated to perform. In the rushing waters of the creek, which were swelled by the rains of the night before it took a strong heart and a stronger body to cope with the current that might have drowned two instead of one. Without the least hesitation when he saw that this alone would save the child, the negro plunged in, and after a hard struggle brought her to safety.

Too many times do the negroes of the south read of the misdeeds of their race. Too little attention is paid to the things that they do which are worthy, while, on the other hand, too much publicity is given to their wrong doings, and we read column after colmun about them. We do not desire to whitewash anyone who is guilty of criminal offense, but among negroes one frequently appears who accomplishes something, or as in this instance, makes a sacrifice, and but little notice is given. Henry Taylor deserves great credit for Saturday's work. There are many shiftless and careless negroes who, when put to the test, show a finer quality of manhood than many who are of lighter complexion. Some one has aptly remarked that, "There is no joy in a graveyard, give me my flowers while I live." This is a good suggestion, and we desire to express our appreciation to the man of black face, who, without hesitation and at personal risk, saved the little Halbrook girl from death. He is a man of family, and consequently he might have shirked and allowed the little girl to drown and have said his obligation was elsewhere. Instead he did the manly and heroic thing, the thing that many of us neglect—he forgot self and ministered to another. We are indeed glad to know that this negro, without the hope or expectation of reward had manhood and courage enough to act in the emergency and thus save a little girl's life.

Recognition should be obtained for this negro from the fund provided by Andrew Carnegie and a substantial fund should be raised by the citizens of Trenton in appreciation of his heroism.

Race Problem – 1915

United States

LOUISIANA MAN BEHIND EFFICIENCY SCHEME WHICH IS WORKING WONDERS

John A. McIlhenny, President of the Civil Service Commission, Says He Is Getting Splendid Co-Operation from the Administration in Extending Scope of Work—Negroes Miffed Because They Cannot Ride in State Department Elevators.

BY PAUL WOOTON

Staff Correspondent of The Times-Picayune

Washington, April 14.—Despite a very general opinion to the contrary the civil service has extended its scope and its efficiency decidedly during the presen administration. Due largely to the fact that the president acted on the recommendation of the secretary of commerce in withdrawing a few places from the service, he has been held in many quarters as favoring restrictions in the civil service. This is not the case. Mr. Wilson is a strong believer in the extension of the civil service and has upheld the hands of the commission through his term in office.

"This administration has supported the civil service in spirit as well as in the following of the letter of the regulations governing it," according to John A. McIlhenny, the Louisiana man who is president of the Civil Service Commission. "Its co-operation has been such as to make possible the strides that have been made during the past two years."

CONGRESS RETARDS WORK

Congress is the greatest stumbling block of the commission. In the face of the most urgent recommendations by the commission, places are withdrawn from the civil service. By failing to pass legislation recommended by the commission the extension of the service has been retarded.

One influence is doing more to create a demand for the incorporation of other public employes into the service than any other. Most government employes come in contact with the public. Those who do not are in positions where they are contrasted with civil service men. The superiority of civil service employes is so striking that the demand for the extension of the service is nation-wide. To this influence congress has to bow. The pressure of public opinion is gr wing so rapidly at present that those of the legislators who want to increase the positions that may be used for deserving friends will be forced to desist from trying to wrest positions away from the classified service.

Mr. McIlhenny is making an excellent record at the head of the Civil Service Commission. He is the moving spirit behind the present efficiency campaign that is turning things upside down in several of the department in Washington.

Representative Riley J. Wilson, the new envoy from the Fifth Louisiana district, is in Washington laying his lines for various activites. Above all else he expects to concentrate his energies on two matters. They are rural credits and the river problem. Just at present he is doing what he can to beautify every school of his district. Through the government's wonderful botanical garden here he has arranged for the distribution of quantities of flower seed to be used in the beautifying of school grounds.

NEGROES OBJECT

Elevation of the negro into places that he is not qualified to fill is receiving a decided backset during this administration. As a result some of the northern negro societies and their white backers are finding plenty of grievances. The latest one is based on a recent order prohibiting messengers and laborers in the state, war and navy building from using the elevators during certain hours of the day. The hours specified are those during which the employes and heads of the divisions are coming or leaving work. As practically all the messengers and most of the laborers in the building, which is the largest government structure used by the departments, are negroes, they interpret the order as an attempt to push the color line still further than has been done already. The order is explained by the departments as having been necessary owing to the limited elevator capacity of the building.

ORLEANEAN GETS JOB

Reports from field agents engaged in the operation of the federal employment bureau, inaugurated recently by the department of labor, in conjunction with the agricultural and postoffice departments, show that one person in New Orleans was directed to employment last month. A summary of the eports shows that 1245 persons throughout the country obtained employment through the bureau during the past two months. In view of the fact that the work of the bureau has not been systematized completely, the results so far obtained are highly satisfactory to the departments. As the system broadens, it is expected that industrial concerns throughout the nation will take advantage of this means of obtaining employes.

WEAR OUT STEPS

Workmen are busy removing the broad steps leading to the main entrance of the Capitol on the east front. These steps were placed there in 1840 and are badly worn by the thousands of feet that have passed over them during that time. Congress appropriated $11,000 to replace these steps and the work of building the new steps will be begun immediately. The new steps will be of marble.

PATENTS

Patents have been issued to the following residents of Louisiana and Mississippi: William B. Eichholtz, New Orleans, car signal; Benjamin Hoover, Meri[dian], Miss., safety appliance for railw[ays]; M. P. Richard, Rayne, La., harr[ow]; Albert Toca, New Orleans, fro[m] fection and the making of the s[ame].

WINTER WHEAT CONDI[TION]

Winter wheat in Mississippi [was] per cent of normal April 1, acc[ording] to a report from the bureau of [crop] estimates which was issued last week. This is 9 per cent below the condition a year ago and 4 per cent below the average ten-year condition.

NEEDED PENSACOLA YARD

In a recent communication justifying the reopening of the navy yards at New Orleans and Pensacola, the secretary of the navy had the following to say in regard to the Pensacola yard:

"The navy yard at Pensacola has not been opened at large expense to the government, as has been stated. In fact, it has not been opened at all for any work of the navy except as its aeronautic station. During the administration of Secretary Meyer the Pensacola navy yard was closed, the dry dock which cost $195,000 and $105,000 for repairs, was sold for $31,600 to private parties and was removed. The large investment there, amounting to $2,931,445.10, was not utilized in any way. The development of aviation in the navy has been slow and on October 9, 1913, I appointed a board to consider what should be done to make the navy aeronautical work all it should be. In an elaborate report that board unanimously recommended the selection of Pensacola as the place for the aviation center and flying school, and gave the following reasons for its action: Its equable climate, permitting out-of-door work throughout the year. Its central position on the Gulf coast, its proximity to the West Indies and to the Isthmus, its rail connection to all parts of the country and a fair amount of steamship facilities; its great land locked bay, its nearness to the gulf, its ease of access and the protection by fortifications; the small rise and fall of tide; the character and extent of water front; the distance from the city, seven miles, away from the objectionable features that exist at other yards; ample space, 1434 acres, as compared with 937 acres at Philadelphia; convenience of the towns of Warrington and Woolsey on government land for the homes of navy yard workmen; ample quarters, workshops, storehouses, barracks, sawmills boat shop, hospital, radio station, magazine, wharves and other facilities which already exist; ther is a fine slip, or wet basin, with a caisson at the opening which would provide ample accommodations for a double floating dirigible shed; the bay is sufficiently ample to anchor the whole fleet; its tributary bays and streams, as well as its nearness to the open sea, render it a fine aerodome for aviation, and the comparatively unsettled portion of the surrounding country render the location very suitable for dirigible practice.

"That repot was appoved. By economical management, the navy depatment effected a saving of nearly $2,000,000 last year by reducing the cost of work on shore. Upon my earnest recommendation, $1,000,000 of the savings effected were appropriated for aviation and the large investment at Pensacola will be utilized as a center and school for aviation and for no other purpose."

POSTAL INFORMATION

Many protests are benig received from Louisi na and Mississippi because more rur[al] routes are not being established in thos[e] states. For the past six months the postoffice department has been retrenching in the matter of rural routes and very few routes have been authorized in any part of the country. More protests are being received from the South than from the North, as the North was well supplied before the inauguration of [th]e present policy. Owing to the large number of Northern farmeres moving into Louisiana and Mississippi, the agitation for rural routes is greater than would have been the case otherwise. Coming from states that have been more favored by the postoffice department during previous administrations, the difference in facilities is very noticeable.

Judging from the large number of Southern rural routes established during the first two years of the Democratic administration, it is the intention to even up the rural mail facilities. The coming of the European war has interfered seriously with the carrying out of this policy.

Postoffice sites have been ordered changed at the following places in Louisiana by the postmaster general: Lakeland, Laurents and Delcambre. The site at Tandry, Mississippi, also has been ordered changed.

Appointments to fill vcancies in the rural letter carrier force in Mississippi have been ordered as follows: Emmett D. Perkins, Silver Creek; Wm. C. Wallis, Eden; Gerald E. Hull, Louisville; Raleigh T. Mottley, Maud; Claudius I. Brumfield, Tylertown.

Boston Mass.
JOURNAL
MAR 3 1915

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH REEL 4

DR. CABOT SPEAKS ON SOCIAL HYGIENE

Progressive Women Hear Discussions of Many Subjects.

Women's interest and influence in subjects as diverse as social hygiene, Mormonism, world peace and the condition of the negro were presented yesterday afternoon at the open meeting of the Massachusetts Federation of Progressive Women held at Hotel Brunswick.

Dr. Hugh Cabot, who spoke on social hygiene, declared that individuals of society who negligently allow present methods of dealing with the so-called criminal classes to continue, are more deserving of jail sentences than most of those now in prison.

"We expect," he said, "a judge, thinking in mathematical terms and referring everything to precedent, to pass in five minutes on a question which it would require an expert five weeks to decide; that is, as to whether Jones who stole one pig was mentally deficient or hungry."

He stated it to be a well-known fact that more than half the inmates of penal institutions are "not wicked, but sick, mentally diseased." Dr. Cabot emphasized individual responsibility throughout his talk.

Mrs. Susan W. FitzGerald of Boston spoke on the movement of women in the national peace party to rouse all women to protest against war.

Mrs. Butler Wilson pleaded for a fair deal for the negroes in this country, pointing out especially injustices in legislation pending in Washington. Mrs. George Coleman spoke on "The Dangers of Present Day Mormanism," giving various incidents in support of her claim that proselyting is widely and continuously carried on by this denomination and that it constitutes a grave danger. The Rev. Anna C. Tillinghast presided and vocal music was furnished by May Sleeper Ruggles.

ST. JOSEPH, MO.
NEWS-
Press
APR 28 1915

THE NEGRO AS A HOME OWNER.

For several years associations interested in the advancement of the negro race have urged on Southern negroes the advantage of owning their homes. The negro is naturally home loving. He is not by nature inclined to rove from the place where he has attained maturity, yet it was found that the number of negroes who owned their homes was small. This movement seems to have met with the approval of the negroes, especially in the Southern states. A recent census bulletin shows that in 1910 there were in these states 1,917,391 negro homes, of which 430,449, or 22.4 per cent, were owned by negroes. In Virginia the percentage rises to 41.3, but the negroes farther South appear to be slower to adopt the home-buying plan, for in Georgia the percentage drops to 14.7. The total increase, however, is substantial, and this is a hopeful sign which should give encouragement to all interested in the progress of the race.

This bulletin also shows a marked increase in the percentage of schools, a decided decrease in the percentage of illiteracy, a decrease in the mortality rate, and an increase in the proportion of church membership. Another feature in connection with the report worthy of special notice is that all the work on it, including the preparation of the statistical tables, as well as the clerical work, was done by negro employes of the department.

In 1790 the negro population of the United States was 757,208, which at that time was 19.3 per cent of the total population of the country. In 1910 the negro population was 9,827,763, or 10.7 per cent of the total population. It should be remembered in this connection, however, that since 1810 there has been practically no negro immigration into this country, while the white population has been constantly augmented by the inflow of immigrants from Europe. The report shows that 99.2 per cent of all negroes in the United States in 1910 were natives of native parentage, while the remainder were of foreign or mixed foreign and native parentage. Thus it would appear that the race is in no danger from dying by the slow process of race suicide.

John A. McIlhenny.
Louisiana man who is extending the scope of the Civil Service and routing inefficiency in government departments.

Lawrence Kan

WORLD
MAR 13 1915

Citizens prone to minimize the legitimate needs of the colored race in their almost hopeless struggle to advance in competition with their white brethren, should recall what Andrew Carnegie, who is a philosopher as well as financier, says about the negro race in America: "The progress of the colored race in America since its emancipation fifty years ago is one of the remarkable phenomena in history. It has no parallel in the annals of sociology." Such observations give encouragement to those who realize that the growth of civilization cannot be more rapid than the moral and intellectual advancement of the racial units comprising all society.

Indianapolis, Ind.
NEWS
MAY 29 1915

NEGRO MORTALITY

There is a general tendency toward declining death rate among the colored population in those cities where such mortality statistics have been kept, according to a recent census bulletin, and this has been somewhat more than among the white population. This has been chiefly caused, the bulletin says, by the increase of home ownership. In the ten years between 1900 and 1910 the number of homes owned by colored people practically doubled, the increased number being 72,463. This the bulletin supposes to have wrought better housing conditions which reduced mortality. As is to be expected, the increase is greater in cities than in country regions. Amid the heavy negro population of South Carolina, for example, the farm homes increased from 18,874 to 20,431, while city homes increased from 7,996 to 12,730. The Virginia negro seems to be the most thrifty. There are 32,528 farm homes in that state owned by negroes and 24,405 other homes, and the total is greater than in any other state. One out of every eleven of those living outside of cities of more than 5,000 colored inhabitants, owns his home, while in South Carolina one out of twenty-five does. The proportion of those living in the cities of the grade mentioned is about the same in many southern states.

But while the death rate is decreasing in registered cities owing to home owning, the decrease has not beeen general enough to show much reduction, and the rate is still high in all southern cities, the lowest being Covington, Ky., where it is 20.3 to the 1,000 of population. In Charleston, S. C., it is 39.3 and in most cities it is from 25 to 34, nearly everywhere being practically double the rate among whites. The diseases are chiefly tuberculosis, pneumonia, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, cancer, appendicitis. In Boston the death rate was 23.3, as against 17.1 for the whites; in Chicago, 24.3, against 15 for whites; in our own city, 25, against 15.4 for the whites; in Detroit, about the same; in Kansas City, 27.1, against 14.7 for the whites.

The general deduction is that the conditions of living among the colored people all over the country are less favorable than among the whites. How much of this is due to the people themselves is difficult to determine. While the owning of homes seems to decrease the rate, the slightness of the decrease might indicate that not enough attention is paid to proper conditions in any home.

Chicago Herald

20 March 1915

But the facts that this frail, gifted negro boy was able to wrest a personal success from the world and that he was willing later to devote his considerable talents to the progress of his race are only a fraction of the significance of his appearance Sunday night.

He comes to Chicago under the auspices of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. That association which was started by Oswald Garrison Villard and a group of New England descendants of the radical abolitionists has always been identified with the section of the negroes hostile to Booker T. Washington. Professor W. E. B. DuBois, the very brilliant editor of the Crisis, has been the leader of those who scorned the amiability of Washington toward the South.

Now with Fisher comes the influence of Tuskegee leaders, the influence of negro men and women able to understand the white South. Radical negroes have hated what they called the compromises of Booker T. Washington toward the southern attitude on social equality. But negroes, north and south, have had to endure a discrimination more intolerable than a mere lack of social recognition. They have had to face a world which closed many industries, trades and professions to them. They have had to go through courts which were sometimes color blind.

These were the bigger problems. It is much more important for a people to gain the right to full justice in the courts; to secure the privilege of adequate school facilities; to obtain the right to healthful homes; to break down the barriers of industrial discrimination than it is to agonize over such a will-o'-the-wisp as social equality. For in the long run this smaller recognition is built on an economic and a cultural foundation. That once obtained, social equality is no longer a problem.

Columbia S C
State
Nov 20 1915

RACE CONFERENCE DATE APPOINTED

Negro Leaders Take Counsel Together During February—Rev. Len Broughton Invited.

The South Carolina negro race conference will be held in Columbia, beginning February 6. The Rev. Richard Carroll of Columbia is president of the conference.

Announcement was made yesterday that the Rev. Len G. Broughton of Knoxville, formerly of Atlanta and later of London, would be among the speakers. J. M. Greene, M. D., of Knoxville, a negro physician, who has won a reputation because of his study of pellagra, has accepted an invitation to address the conference.

J. G. Butler, a steel manufacturer of Youngstown, Ohio, has also accepted an invitation to speak. The Rev. W. W. Robertson of Cincinnati, a retired minister, will deliver an address. Gov. Manning will be invited to address the conference.

The president said yesterday that he expected a large attendance and that an instructive programme would be arranged.

MRS. SHEPHERD VISITS NEGRO BUSINESS HOUSES

Mrs. W .E. Shepherd, of Madison, Ga., who was in the city last week attending the Confederation of Women's Clubs, of which she is a state officer, had an occasion while here to visit the business of Henry Mears, the leading Negro feed merchant in the city. Mr. Mears, during his early life, was employed as butler in the home of Mrs. Shepherd who took a keen interest in his welfare. It is mainly through the training which Mr. Mears received in the Shepherd home that he owes his present standing in the commercial life of the Negroes of Savannah. Mrs. Shepherd who was much pleased to note the progress which her former butler had made, was shown many of the leading Negro enterprises by him, among them being the Wage Earners bank and The Tribune.

DIVISION OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Race Problem - 1915
United States

Atlantic City, N. J.

MAY 10 1915

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE NEGRO

The total Negro population in the United States and outlying possessions is 10,215,482, forming 10.9 per cent. of the total population. In the United States proper the Negro population is 9,827,763. In the State of Mississippi more than half the population is Negro. In four other South no State has as high as 5 per cent. the population is Negro. Outside of the South no State had as high as 5 per cent. of its population Negro. Missouri has 4.8 per cent., and New Jersey 3.2 per cent. At the present time the centre of Negro population is located near Fort Payne in the northeastern corner of Alabama.

Negroes form a far greater percentage of the rural than the urban population of the country. There are 56,001 more Negro females than males. One of the most interesting things that the report shows is that there are 1,985,415 Negroes of militia age that might be placed under arms for defense should this country become engaged in conflict.

Of Negroes 15 years of age and over, 64 per cent. of the males and 73.1 per cent. of the females had married. The percentage of married females was larger than that of males because females marry at an earlier age. The report shows that there were in 1910 1,607.650 Negroes attending school. Also there were 2,227,731 Negroes in the United States unable to write. The percentage of illiteracy was 30.4 per cent. In the Southern States the Negroes 430,499 homes. Birmingham, Ala., with a total of 14,229 families, has an owned home for every 22 of its Negro population. In Nashville, Tenn., one Negro out of every 18 owns his home. In Danville, Va., one Negro in every 14 owns his home. In Washington, D. C., one Negro in every 46 In Louisville, Ky., one Negro in every 57.

In the report on occupations in which Negroes are engaged the report furnishes some very interesting data. In the United States there are Negroes ngaged in the following occupations:

Authors, 27; architects, 59; bankers and bank officials, 185; inventors, 19; civil engineers and surveyors, 217; mining engineers, 20; pawnbrokers, 19; officials and superintendents of steam railroads, 37; motormen, 108; locomotive engineers, 355; locomotive firemen, 5188; steam railway conductors, 120; street railway conductors, 144; captains, master, mates, and pilots of boats, 465; compositors, linotypers and typesetters, 1128; electricians and electrical engineers, 703; jewelers, watchmakers, gold and silversmiths, 157; glassblowers, 42; lithographers, 20; stereotypers and electrotypers, 21; cabinetmakers, 293; boilermakers, 275.

DANGER IN NEGRO PROBLEM.

Dr. Reisner Says the United States Has Neglected the Race.

The Rev. Dr. Christian Reisner, speaking at a special service for men last night in the Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, West 104th Street near Columbus Avenue, took for his subject "Are You a Eupagurus-Bernhardus?" and it was not until he had entered upon his discourse that more than a third of the congregation that filled the church knew that he was referring to the hermit crab.

He discussed the habits and mode of life of the hermit crab. Their desire for seclusion and their constant living in a shell reminded him of some men, he said. The crab lives on refuse, and just so, he pointed out, some men seem to live upon the refuse of life. He pointed a way to a higher life and warned his hearers not to be hermit crabs. Motion pictures illustrative of the subject were shown. Miss Mary Elizabeth Moutray, soprano, sang special selections.

At the morning service Dr. Reisner's subject was "What Shall the United States Do with the Negro?" He said the subject was a vital one, and would some day give serious trouble if the country does not prepare to face it now. He pointed out the inconsistency of sending a thousand teachers to the Philippines and neglecting the millions of negroes who never have a chance.

Buffalo, N. Y.

JUN 6 1915

CHICAGO WOMAN TALKS ON NEGRO.

Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley Explains Workings of the Colored Settlement.

"The American Race Problem," was the subject of an address delivered by Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley of Chicago, founder of the Frederick Douglass Center, in the parish house of the First Unitarian Church last evening. Rev. Charles H. Dickinson of the Calhoun Industrial School, Calhoun, Ala., and Rev. Richard Wilson Boynton, pastor of the First Unitarian Church, who presided at the meeting, also delivered addresses.

Mrs. Woolley during the course of her address explained the work of a colored settlement and asserted that as far as its practical activities are concerned it does not differ to any great extent from the work of a white settlement. The only difference, she said, is that a white settlement strives to overcome conditions due to economic problems while the colored settlement endeavors to conquer the moral issue known as the race or color problem.

The negro, the speaker said, is an American by birth and ideals and not until we have given him a full opportunity can we fairly judge him as a man and a citizen.

... 1915

RACE HATRED YIELDING TO BROTHERHOOD SPIRIT

Constitution 2-21-15

New York, February 20.—Race hatred is giving way to the spirit of brotherhood, and democracy is gaining over aristocracy, in the opinion of Professor William Sloane, of Columbia university and of Dr. Toyokichi Iyenaga, formerly of the University of Chicago, who were the principal speakers today in a discussion on this topic by college professors at the Republican club.

The advancement of the spirit of tolerance in New York city has been almost incredible, said Professor Sloane. The same advancement has been noticeable during the last few years on the Pacific coast, he declared, where now the races from the Far East not only are being understood but are gradually coming to understand themselves.

The present situation in Europe, the speaker asserted, is due not to rulers or merchants, but to bureaucrats, "who have to keep their jobs by faning the fire of race prejudice." The aristocrat in this country, he added, is the political boss.

Speaking of the European war from a Japanese standpoint, Dr. Iyenaga prophesied that "democracy, internationalism and the spirit of brotherhood will arise out of the ashes of sacked towns and heaps of bones."

Inequality among races, Dr. Iyenaga said, is indisputable, but injustice comes when the color of the skin is made the criterion of equality. The best cure for race prejudice, he thought, is knowledge and association.

"We Japansee beg for no grace, but will stand on our own merit," he added. "I find the Americans the most fair-minded and just people on the face of the globe."

William Pickens, of Wiley university, Texas, also spoke.

WANT TEXAS REPUBLIC

Authorities Probe Rebellion Planned Against Whites on Washington's Birthday

The Savannah Tribune 2/27/15

Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 20—The preliminary inquiry into the alleged conspiracy to form a republic of Mexicans and Negroes in Southern Texas by an uprising next Monday, Washington's birthday, was postponed today until next Saturday by United States Commissioner Southgate, because of the absence of witnesses.

It was charged that circulars printed in Spanish were distributed throughout South Texas to excite the murder of all white Americans over 16 years old. The postponed hearings was on charges against Anotolio Gonzales and Manuel Flores of seditious conspiracy.

LEADER

APR 23 1915

COLORED FOLK ARE THANKFUL

PORTSMOUTH, April 22.—At a public meeting of the colored residents of this city the following resolutions were adopted: "Resolved, that we do here and now express to the present mayor, councilmen and board of public works of this city, and their predecessors in the office, our appreciation and thanks for their continued spirit of fairness and kindness in granting unto us the privilege of using the South Ward room during the last 23 years for religious services; and furthermore be it resolved, that because of this afforded opportunity we have among us as a people, and the only in the entire state, a well organized church and Sunday school, having services every Lord's day, known as the People's Baptist church, and as they are about to move into their new church on Pearl st., we cannot leave this place without the sincere expression of our appreciation and gratitude and trust that in the future we may continue to have the respect and confidence of our honored city fathers and all other fellowmen. Done by the order of the colored citizens of Portsmouth in mass meeting assembled; Rev. John L. Davis, James F. Slaughter, Anderson Scott, G. M. King, Mrs. W. D. Blanks, Mrs. R. L. Harris, Mrs. H. A. DeValentine, committee.

HEAR RADICAL VIEWS ON NEGRO PROBLEM

The negro should be deported and sent to Africa or to the South Seas, according to William P. Pickett, who addressed the members of the Franklin Literary Society last night at their meeting in the Pacific Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, Pacific street and Fourth avenue. Mr. Pickett, who is an author of many books on the negro of the South, spoke on the "Negro Problem."

The speaker contended that although the negro in some cases possesses the mentality which would allow him to take advantage of a good education, his subsequent ostracism from polite society made him an undesirable.

"It would be better for the negro to be considered a man in Africa than a monkey in New York," declared Mr. Pickett. Following the lecture there was a general discussion of the topic, "Has the South a Republican Form of Government?" Among those who took part were John J. O'Neil, Louis Somerville Charles Morhous, Howard K. Smith Patrick Griffin and Nicholas Ehrlich

Buffalo, N. Y. Times.

22 March 1915

RACIAL PREJUDICE CALLED IGNORANCE

BY REV. MR. FOSBROOKE

How the colored people of Buffalo might help to blot out any racial prejudice that may exist, was outlined yesterday to more than 400 men and women by the Rev. Houghton Fosbroke, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, at a meeting held under the auspices of the Christian Culture Congress and the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Folk. The gathering was in Michigan Avenue Baptist Church.

Dr. Fosbroke said that ostracism is the product of ignorance when displayed by anybody, white or black. He insisted it was important for the negro to organize to combat evils working against their race.

Oothers who spoke were Mrs. Alexina Carter Barrell, the Rev. Philip L. Frick, Rev. J. J. Patterson, Mrs. Bryant B. Glenny, Mrs. John R. Joslyn, Dr. Jacob Goldberg and Mrs. William H. Talbert.

The Mind Of A Statesman

The Journal and Tribune 1/30/15

In an address before the North Carolina legislature Dr. Edwin A. Alderman, president of the University of Virginia, told the lawmakers of six heavy duties resting upon their state.

She has the African race with her and must treat him justly whilst having her own civilization. All the people must be educated, white and black. She must reorganize agriculture as the basis of her industry and develope social service, learn the spirit of industrial democracy and cultivate more acute and discriminating patriotism.

Sound advice. Real democracy. But the voice of a real statesman sounds strange in some places in these days.

NEW YORK WORLD

3 April 1915

Fair Treatment of the Colored Race.

To the Editor of The World:

I can assure you that the colored race appreciate very much the kind and manly words of your editorial of April 1 relative to Mr. Anderson, the retiring Collector of Internal Revenue for the Second District of New York.

The fact that your paper is Democratic in principle and that the bulk of the colored vote is Republican has never stood in your way in appealing for justice for the race.

When Judge Terrell's case was before the United States Senate, you editorially indorsed him and appealed to the Senate to confirm his nomination. When the segregation question

in the departments in Washington was put up to the President, you showed editorially, in no uncertain tones, the inconsistency and injustice of such a scheme. In the matter of "The Birth of a Nation," you again appealed for fair dealing for the race.

Not only for the colored race but for all oppressed races your great newspaper has always stood for justice.

H. A. WALLACE.

New York, April 1.

Southerners Are [illegible]

To the Editor of "The Bulletin."

Sir: I noted recently a letter criticising the Southern people's treatment of the negro. I am a native of this section, but recently returned from several years in the South.

The amount of ignorance displayed by some Northern white people far exceeds the ignorance of the negro. He is well treated there, even gets employment when the white man cannot. This has come to be the case here, too, thanks to the "white trash," commonly known in the South as "negro lovers." They are usually Northern people who lack the intelligence and refinement to know their place. Even the negro at heart does not respect such a white person, and why should he?

Let me quote from a publication printed there by a gentleman from Pittsburgh: "As to the negroes, it is probable that most Northern people come South to live, with the impression that the negro is inhumanly mistreated. Nothing could be farther from the truth. It might almost be said that the Southern white people are the only real friends of the negro, but mark you, that the negro of the South is not the negro of the North."

The reason is because he is coddled and babied by the ignorant white people here. As a natural result Philadelphia people cannot pick up a daily paper without reading of a crime against some little white girl or woman, committed right here, too.

The people of Illinois and Indiana have come to handle these miscreants so well that such crimes are becoming rare there. Perhaps some day Pennsylvania men will also learn to respect their women and children, and to preserve their safety.

J. H. P.

Race Problem - 1915
United States
Constitution 2-21-15

THE "NILE" AT OUR DOORS.

Returning to New York from a visit to Atlanta and an inspection of the negroes of Peters and Decatur streets, Eugene Brieux, the French dramatist, is reported as having said that "the negroes on the headwaters of the Nile and in Nubia appear to be much more civilized than those on the Great Black Way, of Atlanta, Ga."

This candid criticism, from a man given to observation and with no cause for bias, furnishes food for thought to every southern white man frank enough to face facts. The negroes Brieux saw in his night visit to Peters and Decatur streets undoubtedly are not typical of the whole race. Had he visited other sections and streets, he could have found negroes who are better citizens—more industrious, self-respecting and better behaved.

But we owe it to ourselves to question: Are not the Decatur and Peters street types too prevalent, not only for the good of the negro himself, but for the good of the **white man?**

Surveys made by impartial experts from outside of Atlanta, and Atlanta is a typical southern town, have revealed alarming conditions.

The negro woman who comes into your house and cooks your meals or nurses your child may, and often does, come from a hovel infected with tuberculosis, diphtheria, typhoid or other communicable diseases.

The laundry of your household goes into an environment possibly, even probably, infected.

The negro who works in your place of business, or in the intimacy of your home, may belong to the same classification.

This is all speaking from the point of view of **sordid self-preservation,** not to mention the Christian and humanitarian aspects.

Then there is the still selfish viewpoint of **efficiency.**

Who pays for the courts, so largely occupied with negro criminals? The white race.

Who pays for the penitentiaries, the chaingangs, the other means of detention necessitated by the rising crime rate among the negroes? The white race.

Still speaking from the sordid point of view, it is the **white man** that pays the bills for all the accumulated frailties of the negro race, whether in the crime rate, the disease rate, inefficiency or what not, including the top-heavy educational system which in the past has prepared the exceptional **one** negro and ignored the average **ninety and nine.**

Isn't it time that the southern white man, the southern **white church,** paid more attention to the negroes of the Decatur and Peters street types, in town and country?

The Constitution does not disparage foreign missions. They have their function. But they are contributing to the civilizing and Christianizing of the negro "on the Nile and in Nubia" and elsewhere, and virtually neglecting the negro **who touches elbows with our own civilization at a dozen points and menaces it.** A tithe of the money spent across the seas, kept at home and judiciously invested, would go far toward solving a problem the presence of which we all recognize.

Brieux has given the **white man** of the south and the **white church** of the south food for serious thought.

What Other Papers Are Saying.

Condition of the Negro.

New Orleans Times-Picayune.

A special bulletin of the census bureau on "Negroes in the United States" is full of interest and meaning to those who are studying the race question, if properly worked out and the figures analyzed. It covers all the various phases of that question and disposes of a great many theories that have been widely accepted, and predictions that have been made as to the future of the negroes. What it shows is most satisfactory and encouraging for them; that they are, on the whole, settling down to a life of industry, educating themselves, acquiring property, taking better care of themselves from a sanitary point of view, and generally becoming better citizens.

They have forgotten the wild fancies of Reconstruction days; forgotten that they were to become the wards of the nation; forgotten the Freedman's bank and the promise of "40 acres and a mule;" and they recognize that they, like others, must work for all they get. The absurd story founded on the fraudulent census of 1870—that the negroes, under emancipation, were increasing more rapidly than the white and would, as in the West Indies, soon exceed in population and dominate the South—was dissipated long ago. The rate of increase of the race has decreased steadily since the negroes have been free, have had to look after themselves and have crowded into the towns in such numbers. All the States now have white majorities, which are steadily increasing with every census, save only South Carolina and Mississippi, and the condition in these States will be wiped out in the next two decades.

The negroes grew in numbers on an average of 34.5 per cent. each decade during the early days of slavery because of the care they then received and because of the eugenic conditions under which they lived, increasing as rapidly if not more rapidly than the native white population; but this condition changed with freedom and the struggle of life. The increase fell to 24.2 per cent. in the decade ending in 1890; to 18 per cent. in the decade 1890-1900, and is only 11.2 per cent. for the last ten years, whereas the increase in the white population of the country has remained little changed since the War Between the Sections; and is today twice as great as that of the negroes. That this is not due wholly to immigration is evidenced by the fact that throughout those portions of the South where there is little or no immigration the whites are steadily gaining on the negroes. No such fate as that of the West Indies, therefore, awaits this section. We will never have the problems that have arisen elsewhere in America from negro numerica[l] majority.

During the days of slavery the negroes were carried further and further West and South so that the centre of negro population moved from near Petersburg, Va., 463.5 miles to the Southwest, of which 148.5 miles were to the South and 315 to the West; and it was predicted that the race would finally be concentrated on the banks of the gulf and the Mississippi. This tendency has changed and in the last decade the centre of negro population has remained almost stationary, moving less than a mile south and only five miles west. Booker Washington's advice to his people to stay at home, as the best place for them, is evidently being followed; except along the Atlantic coast, where there is a marked drift Northward. Three times as many South Carolina negroes moved to North Carolina as came from the Old North State to the Palmetto State, five times as many moved from North Carolina to Virginia as came southward from the latter; ten times as many moved into Maryland as came from that State to the Old Dominion. The Middle States received 198,50[illegible] negroes from the South, mostly from the South Atlantic States. There are 22,600 Southern negroes in New England and only 1,925 Yankee darkies in the South. The Western States which, like the Middle ones, have doubled their colored population have received most of their new comers from the border States of Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri, which explains why the negro population of the latter has decreased during the decade—there has been a similar decline in New Hampshire and Connecticut.

In Louisiana the negroes are evidently well satisfied with their treatment, for while there has been a large increase in the white majority 642,733 of the negroes born in the State have remained within the limits of Louisiana; and only 6,734 have moved out of the South.

The emigration of the negro northward has in many ways not been beneficial to the race; and if the colored population there has doubled it is not due to natural increase but to immigration. The death rate has remained high and the birth rate has declined. Negro children under 5 years of age constitute only 8. per cent. of the negro population in the Middle States, 8.4 per cent. in Illinois and 7.4 per cent. in Chicago whereas in Georgia, a typical Southern State, the young children constitute 14.5 per cent. of the total, or twice as many relatively as in the Windy City.

While there has been a decrease in the negro mortality during the decade due to improved methods and better sanitary knowledge, it is still excessive, being 28.3 per thousand or nearly twice as high as that of the whites. The worst showing is in the Bronx borough of New York city where it is 50 per thousand. In [illegible] cities the negro deaths exceed the births by 15,000 a year, and a constant tide of colored population from the country districts is needed to make good the losses.

But, as we have said, there is constant improvement; and the race has made greater progress in the United States during the decade than during any previous decade of its history.

PROF. MASON HAWKINS SPEAKS AT CHEYNE[Y]

Cheyney, Pa., April 16.—The pressure against the race will re-sult in a group of able race leaders along all lines was asserted by Prof. Mason A. Hawkins, of Baltimore in an address at Cheyney Institute tonight.

"Perhaps the most remarkable influence of one group upon another, upon a smaller group within a larger foreign group was and is the influence of the American whites upon the American Negro. I doubt it, in the history of the race, an advanced group, has had a more favorable opportunity to consciously shape the course of an undeveloped impressionable group than was offered the white people of the United States to shape the course of the emancipated blacks.

"One chapter will tell of the bigotry of a great nation, east and west, north and south, in failing to rise above race prejudice, in its attempt to prescribe, to humiliate, to segregate, the blacks and to deprive them of the privilege accorded all citizens of life, labor and the pursuit of happiness without favor or discrimination. In this the white people of the United States have failed. They have failed to bring to bear upon an undeveloped, responsive group, the forces at their disposal which would have made the handicapped black group, educationally, economically, and socially self-sufficient And, because of this lack, we who are able now to supplement our deficiencies must seek consciuosly and purposefully to organize our forces for social or group progress.

"This attitude of the American whites will and must result in an awakening of the Negro group and its group leaders to a conscious development along all lines. To this end there will and must result a more perfect organization of our social forces. To this end there will and must result the development of the individual in mind and body; the strengthening of home life among us for the moral and intellectual conservation, of our children, our most precious resource. We must maintain the high moral and religious sanction of our church life as a cloud by day and aa pillar of fire by night, an unfailing guide and comfort in our onward and upward struggle. And, finally, there must be a continuous effort to obtain thru education and industry the knowledge and means for efficient individual and group life. Only thru the development of all social forces can our group become self sufficient and play its part in the progress of the human civilization of the coming days."

WILSON AND THE NEGRO RACE.

President's Attitude Discussed at Spingarn Medal Presentation.

Oswald G. Villard told 2,000 negroes last night at the meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, in the meeting house of the Ethical Culture Society, that President Wilson could not be relied upon to make good his pre-election pledges in regard to the negroes. These remarks followed the presentation by Gov. Whitman of the Spingarn medal to Dr. Ernest Everett Just, as being the negro who has done most for his race during the last year.

"There has been in Washington," Mr. Villard said, "an outburst of prejudice and a lot of anti-negro legislation of one kind or another. This has given us concern, in view of the fact, I regret to state, that we are not sure that the gentleman in the White House is to be relied upon to make good his promises made during the campaign that if he entered the White House he should do everything in his power to advance the interests of the colored people and to be the President of the entire nation."

This was the first discordant note in a hitherto harmonious meeting of blacks and whites, mostly the former. Before that all had been admiration of one race for the other. After that negro and white did not mince words about the treatment accorded the black. Dr. W. E. B. Du Bois, editor of the official organ of the Association to Advance the Colored People, even went so far as to suggest race warfare as a way out of present abuses.

"In this, as in all great causes," he said, "if peace and patience cannot win, war and strife must."

Dr. Just, who was the recipient of he Spingarn medal, is head of the department of physiology in the Howard University Medical School. He is thirty-one years old, and was graduated from Dartmouth with the highest honor in his class in 1907, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He is engaged in biological research work in addition to his academic duties. In presenting the medal, Gov. Whitman said:

"In the pain or loss of one race all races are affected, and it is due from all tonight to honor a man who has done most in the past year for the negro race. His distinguished scholarship is of a nature so high that it is not only a credit to his race, but to the white race as well.

"I am glad our country shows justice to any race for what has been accomplished by Dr. Just. It is gratifying that education, improved conditions in living and opportunities have not drawn him away from his own people. The success of this young man is an inspiration to white and black alike. Unless the Federal Constitution is wrong his rise is as dear to white as to black. Speaking for the State, we are all of common hopes and ambitions that the stronger race should help the weaker, asking nothing more than justice for all."

Following Mr. Villard's anti-Wilson remarks, Prof. William Pickens, colored, of Wiley University, spoke on "The Negro, a Challenge to American Christianity and Democracy." He left unmentioned none of the social and political disabilities under which his race is suffering, and left untouched none of the appeals to race prejudice.

Other speakers were Mirza Ali Kuli Kahn, representative of Persia to the United States; Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Gilman, and Lindon Bates, jr.—New York Tribune.

FAVORS RACE DISCRIMINATION.

Rev. C. Everest Granger Opposes Race Prejudice, However.

Upholding in his sermon at Gunton Temple Memorial Presbyterian Church last night the right of white men to discriminate against members of any other race, Rev. C. Everest Granger, pastor of the church, declared "discrimination" is often mistaken for race prejudice. The two, however, he asserted, are distinct, and he held that race prejudice as such should be discouraged by all Christians without in any way infringing the right of white persons to discriminate in favor of members of their own race and against the members of any other race.

Rev. Mr. Granger offered no solution of the so-called "race problem" in the United States, saying that conditions arising out of the misdeeds of men have made necessary the position of the white and colored races in this country.

Rev. C. Everest Granger, pastor of Gunton Temple Memorial Presbyterian Church, discusses race prejudice and replies at some length to the recent pamphlet of Rev. F. J. Grimkin on the same subject. The Bee has already said that there was more religious hypocricy among Protestants than among the Catholics so far as the Colored people are concerned. There are one or two statements to which The Bee agrees with this Christian gentleman and that is when he charges that there is as much discrimination and prejudice among certain classes of Colored people in this city as there is among the whites and yet these white Christians should not discriminate against any class on account of color or condition.

When Christ went about healing the sick, he didn't discriminatae on account of color and why should a Christian discriminate? Of course any person has a right to chose his company, but no Christian, if he believes in the religion of Jesus Christ, should discriminate on account of color. The more intelligent classes of Colored people are not looking for social equality, it is that class that is too white to be black and too black to be white, but would attempt to be white among white people. There are in certain government departments today and the Colored public schools certain teachers who believe themselves too white to associate with or to recognize their own people upon the public streets.

Rev. Granger is right so far as this paragraph of his letter is concerned. About two years ago, there was a Color craze in an organization known as the Kingdom. What was? Certain Colored people who arrogated to themselves superiority in color over the darker grain. If a few of these so called social fakers were to be dissected it couldn't stand the light. The Colored people have a right to purchase houses wherever their money will enable them. If they should see a house offered for sale in a square in which people live and they are able to purchase that house and the owner is willing to sell it to them, what crime is there in purchasing the house? The Colored citizen couldn't enter the square if he were not invited to purchase the house and inducements offered to the purchaser. In this Rev. Granger is in error.

Relative to intermarriage, the Bee only finds this craze among those to whom it referred in this article, the so-called lily white Colored gentleman? and lady?. Then again, Rev. Granger can't have as much confidence in his women as the Colored man has in his.

No Colored man can force a white woman to marry him any more than a Colored woman can force a white man to marry her.

WANTS PERCENTAGE TO GOVERN IMMIGRATION

Religious Liberals Would Admit All Peoples at Specified Number Per Year

FEARS ASIATIC UPRISING

Asserts Far East Will Demand Admission to Concert of Nations

Unless the attitude of hostility toward the peoples of Asia is not altered, a greater world struggle than the European war must come, said Dr. Charles W. Wendte, secretary of the congress of religious liberals, last night at the Friends' Meeting House, Fifteenth and Race streets.

Doctor Wendte closed a symposium on race problems which confront the United States in which a negro, a Jew, a Hindu and an American took part. Earlier in the day the nature of race antipathy was discussed from historical and scientific viewpoints.

Doctor Wendte spoke of the awakening of the nations of Asia and their demand to be taken into the concert of nations. "If they come to this concert with rankling memories of our injustice toward them or fear and distrust of our motives, we shall find Asiatic multitudes, a thousand million of them, in arms against us. And they will be armed with the applicances they have learned from us."

He suggested restriction of immigration to include all peoples on a percentage based on the numbers of like people now in the United States.

The veto of the literacy test was upheld by the speakers, with the exception of W. W. Husband, secretary of the senate committee on immigration and a member of the 1907 immigration commission. He said the test was intended only to restrict the oversupply of unskilled labor.

Professor William E. D. Du Bois, director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said America has a chance to bring all peoples into a wider democracy greater than ever before known in the world. "If we carry out the real declarations of democracy, our first duty is to bring all men of all colors and races into real citizenship of the United States."

He said the war in Europe is caused by a falling out of the white races over a division of the spoils of the dark races. "Why is it?" he asked, "that $5,000,000 is spent to send the gospel into Africa, while $20,000,000 is spent to send rum into Africa?"

E. B. Bannerji, a hindu student at Princeton Theological Seminary, spoke against the exclusion of Hindus. "There are but 4000 Hindus in this country, and yet the people of California see a great problem. You have a problem, but do not pass an exclusion law against Asiatics, but restrict them if you want to."

A reception to the members of the congress was given in the Bellevue-Stratford by the ladies' auxiliary.

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO RACE

In a bulletin prepared by the bureau of the census, which shows the standing of the negro race in this country at the time of the last census, five facts stand out to the credit of negroes, and to the country at large. The report shows an increasing tendency among negroes toward home ownership, a marked increase in the percentage of schools, a decided decrease in the percentage of illiteracy, a decrease in the mortality rate, and an increase in the proportion of church membership. Another feature in connection with the report worthy of special notice is that all the work on it, including the preparation of the statistical tables, as well as the clerical work, was done by negro employes of the department.

In 1790 the negro population of the United States was 757,208, which at that time was 19.3 per cent. of the total population of the country. In 1910 the negro population was 9,827,763, or 10.7 per cent. of the total population. It should be remembered in this connection, however, that since 1810 there has been practically no negro immigration into this country, while the white population has been constantly augmented by the inflow of immigrants from Europe. The report shows that 99.2 per cent. of all negroes in the United States in 1910 were natives of native parentage, while the remainder were of foreign or mixed foreign and native parentage. Thus it would appear that the race is in no danger from dying by the slow process of race suicide.

For several years associations interested in the advancement of the negro race have urged on southern negroes the advantage of owning their homes. The negro is naturally home loving. He is not by nature inclined to rove from the place where he has attained maturity, yet it was found that the number of negroes who owned their homes was small. This movement seems to have met with the approval of the negroes, especially in the southern states. In 1910 there were in these states 1,917,391 negro homes, of which 430,449, or 22.4 per cent., were owned by negroes. In Virginia the percentage rises to 41.3, but the negroes farther south appear to be slower to adopt the home-buying plan, for in Georgia the percentage drops to 14.7. The total increase, however, is substantial, and this is a hopeful sign which should give encouragement to all interested in the progress of the race.

BLACK AND WHITE IN SCHOOLS.

Chicago, Feb. 5.—[Editor of The Tribune.]—In reply to an article in this morning's issue on black and white in schools I wish to say it is a very cowardly and unwise act on the part of the so-called citizen to endeavor to cast reflections and heap indignities on a struggling race who have shown their real worth as a great asset to develop this great republic in every walk of life, and any person who attacks a defenseless people in the manner of the one Mr. Lucas is an enemy to this great commonwealth.

H. F. CARROLL, 3646 Indiana avenue.

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United States

Watertown, N.Y.,
MAR 20 1915

DR. WASHINGTON'S ADVICE.

Dr. Booker T. Washington, the head of the Tuskegee institute in Alabama, gave an address in New York the other day before his fellow negroes, in which he set forth a line of action for them as follows:

"Settle down and get identified with some one place. Then build up there reputations for sobriety and industry. If you can't find the right place in the city, then go to a small town nearby, or get back to the soil. At any rate, settle down and get hold of some property and start a bank account. You will soon find that your savings are growing and that you are growing faster and bigger than the bank account."

This advice is equally as good for white as for black. In fact, it is applicable to all peoples. The Christian Science Monitor of Boston, in searching through its exchanges, has found a newspaper article that tells how the advice of Dr. Washington has worked out when put into actual practice. The clipping tells of Hannibal Beatty, a veteran negro of Yorkville, S. C., to whom were accorded remarkable tributes from the community in which he had earned a reputation for faithfulness and loyalty. Every class in the town paid respect to him. "Humble though he was," says the Constitution, "his life preached a lesson of character building to his race, a lesson of true worth which is recognized and honored everywhere. It is one that the thoughtful, earnest educators of the negro race are trying to impress on their people—honest service for the good of themselves and the communities in which they live."

Hannibal Beatty had earned a place in the community of Yorkville; he could not be deprived of it because of the color of his skin; it was recognized as his rightful place by whites and blacks alike. He had settled down. He had gone to work on the building of a reputation for sobriety and honesty. He won the confidence and respect of his neighbors. Business and professional men, prominent citizens of all callings, took pleasure in testifying to his worth.

Dr. Washington has done much for the colored race and his usefulness is far from ended. He is at his best when he is giving practical advice to the negroes, and the soundness of that advice is apparent in thousands of southern communities, where his influence is felt.

THE SOUTH'S DEBT TO THE NEGRO.

3-29-15 Race Problem U.S.

Speech Delivered by Rev. Richard Carroll, of Columbia, S. C., to the Southern Baptist Convention, Houston, Texas. May 13, 1915.

Let us take a retrospect of the Negro's service to the South while in slavery. He fed and clothed the inhabitants, paid for the education of the children, with his labor built the homes, threw up the highways, drained the swamps, cleared the fields, planted and cultivated the crops and gathered them.

His service during the Civil War. They went to the front with their masters, cooked the meals, threw up breastworks, drove the wagons of ammunition and provisions, buried the dead, nursed the sick and wounded, protected, fed and cared for the women and children at home, fed the soldiers at the front and would have fought to keep themselves in perpetual slavery if they had been commanded to do so.

His service to the South since the war. They remained on the farms, made the South rich from his labor in the fields. For the last ten years he has produced an average of nine hundred million dollars' worth of cotton each year and other valuable products. The small percentage of money that he has recived from the enormous sum that he has made has been returned to the white man for furniture, food, clothing, fine coffins, whisky, organs, pianos, buggies, automobiles, doctors, lawyers and jail and prison fines.

The Negro's capacity for adjustment. They were the best slaves in the history of the world. They adjusted themselves to the Southern conditions, not without feeling, but without resistance. They gave their backs to the smiters, when slapped on one side of the face they turned the other. They are not a rebellious race. They had learned in whatever state they were, to be content. When enfranchised, he was willing to vote under the direction of the white man, but gave up the ballot when commanded to do so, adjusted and submitted themselves to the laws of disfranchisement, discrimination, segregation and jim crowism without a murmur. And they are not rebellious in accepting the meager free school system.

They are the happiest race on earth. The Jews could not sing in a strange land but the Negro is still laughing and singing and shouting. They do not commit suicide because they do not worry nor brood over their conditions.

They have adjusted themselves to the white man's religion and also to his vices. They are great imitators. Where sin and lawlessness abound among white people, lawlessness and sin abound among the colored people. Where religious sentiments abound among the white people you will find the same conditions among the Negroes. Where the majority of the white people are Methodist the majority of the Negroes are Methodist. In New Orleans the majority of the white people are Catholic and the majority of the Negroes are Catholic. Under the same condition we have Negro Presbyterians, Episcopalians, Lutherans, etc.

NOW TO THE TEXT.

"I am a debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, to the wise and to the unwise."

Ignorance is a crime. The South owes the Negro an education. They owe him the opportunity for the maintenance of a livelihood and justice and mercy before the law. They owe him the gospel. What is the gospel? It is God's power to evangelize and Christianize the world. The gospel is the word of God and Jesus Christ is the word. The gospel saves men and women from hell and the consequences of sin while we live. The gospel makes a stony heart a heart of flesh. The gospel makes a thief an honest man, the drunkard a sober man, the criminal a law-abiding citizen, the murderer a protector of human life. The gospel makes peace on earth and brings good-will to men. It lifts up the fallen, cheers the faint, binds up the broken heart. It proclaims liberty to the captives. It opens the prison fo to the captives. It opens the prison for them that are bound and proclaims the acceptable year of the Lord. It breaks fetters and chains. It gives freedom to man. If the gospel shall make you free ye shall be free indeed. It brings happiness, peace and prosperity. It settles all race problems. It makes us recognize man as our brother and God as our Father. It makes me do good unto all men as I have opportunity. It makes us consider the poor and speak for the dumb. It makes me love my neighbor as myself. It makes us obey the

THE SOUTH'S DEBT TO THE NEGRO.

(Continued from Page 1.)

day. He was a man of great visions and heaven was revealed to him. He was permitted to see some of the glory of God. Hence he wrote, "For though I preach the gospel I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me: yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."

"I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the barbarians to the wise and to the unwise."

The imperative duty of the white Baptists of the South is to give the gospel to the Negro.

Why should the Southern Baptists give the gospel to the Negro?

First, because they have received it and in giving it to the Negro they receive a greater blessing.

Second, because he is a creature—a man.

Third, because he is a sinner and is lost without the gospel.

Fourth, because God has commanded you to preach the gospel to every creatu

Fifth, because he is at your door and his life, whether good or bad, will effect your life and the life of your children. Sin is catching; sin is contagious.

Sixth, because you cannot really save the white man without saving the Negro.

Seventh, because woe unto white Baptists if they preach not the gospel to the Negro.

How is this gospel to be preached?

First—Let every white pastor and evangelist use the opportunity at their door.

Second—Let every white Christian proclaim it to their servants and to their laborers.

Third, let the white women teach it to the Negro women that they come in contact with in their homes. As Christians we must all preach the gospel, sing the gospel and write the gospel. You are a debtor to the educated Negro, the uneducated Negro, "to the wise and to the unwise."

With all of our educated men and great leaders and numerous organizations, we are not yet prepared to go alone. We are yet in our childhood. We spend much time in play. The spirit of jealousy is rampant. We need to co-operate in Christian work. We need to catch each other's spirit.

We sing too much, you sing too little.
We are too noisy, you are too quiet.
We depend too much on feeling.
You do not feel enough.

In conclusion, do not let the demagogues and politicians make you believe that you can enlighten and Christianize the white South without at the same time enlightening and Christianizing the black South. Let no one make you believe that you can give justice to the white South and deal out injustice to the Negro.

You are as certain to reap what you sow as God lives. Discrimination and injustice to the Negro "will come home to roost some day." Evangelism and civilization founded on race prejudice are sure to fall, for it is founded on the sand. Not one stone will be left of Southern Christianity and civilization unless the great debt to the Negro is paid.

Let no race nor individual think that they can evade paying a debt. No race or individual has ever gained anything by not making desperate efforts to pay their debts. Every debt dodger has suffered. Confidence was lost. Every race that has refused to pay its honest debts has lost more than the debt by the shedding of blood and the destruction of property. America, especially, the South, will have to pay her honest debt to the Negro or at no distant date pay it in suffering, in the sheding of blood and in the loss of property. Japan will yet fight America.

Germany is now paying for atheism, France for infidelity and for not allowing children to be born. Russia for her cr treatment of the Jews. Turkey for the hammedan religion. England for sports and for not allowing church and state to be separated. Belgium for King Leopards' sins against the Africans. Austria for her German alliance.

Coming events cast their shadows before them and America, proud America, had better take warning and pay their honest debt to the Negroes who have made her hold the pre-eminent position among the nations of the earth or suffer serious consequences.

It will pay her to listen to the pleadings of Dr. Booker T. Washington, Dr. B. F. Riley, Gov. Northern, of Georgia; Dr. J. L. Gambrel, Dr. Geo. W. Truitt, Dr. B. D. Gray, Dr. V. I. Masters, Dr. Weston Bruner and a host of others who are ready to be offered for this work.

Pittsburgh Index

JAN 16 1915

THE NEGRO.

That section of the new immigration bill that excludes all persons of negro blood puts us in rather a peculiar position. How do we qualify to raise the bars against the negroes when, for more than one hundred years, we brought them into this country and made of them slaves? The race problem is a peculiar one in America. One-tenth of our population is negro. Yet the national congress deliberately affronts ten million blacks. It cannot be explained except that prejudice prompts it. The preponderance of Southern sentiment and votes in Congress perhaps accounts for this unusual proceeding. Should this clause be permitted to remain in the bill, and become enacted into a law, it must be taken as notice to the negro race that it is not wanted in the United States. Some day this issue is going to become acute

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HAWAII AND RACE QUESTION

EX-COLLECTOR COTTRILL SAYS ISLAND COUNTRY IN PACIFIC SETS EXAMPLE OF INTER-RACIAL CORDIALTY AND EQUALITY.—NO PROSCRIPTION OF YELLOW, BROWN OR BLACK IN PART OF U. S. TERRITORY.

(Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"Hawaiians are not in the least alarmed at the large number of Japanese i ntheir country," according to Charles A. Cottrill, four years collector of internal revenue at Honolulu.

"The reason for this is due to the fact that the Japanese make first-class citizens. They are intelligent, keen, active and efficient. They run banks, control business interests and are eminent in professions."

When it is a question of patriotism, Mr. Cottrill says, the oriental Japanese of Chinese is active. He takes part in every American patriotic celebration. Mr. Cottrill recalls that when he was on a committee for raising funds for sufferers in the Dayton (Ohio) flood more than 40 per cent of the money was contributed by Japanese. Rivalry on that island is purely in business.

"The Chinese business man is honest and his word in business is as good as a written bond," declared Mr. Cottrill. "Chinese are, as a race, not so keen as the Japanese, but honest. In fact the Chinese are known in Honolulu as ultra-honest."

Mr. Cottrill claims Hawaii is a great example of what harmonic associating of races may be. Many nationalities live in harmony, cordiality and equality.

"Since my experiences in Hawaii, I am more convinced than ever that before long the so-called race problem of continental United States will become a thing of the past. The splendid example of these islands in the matter of international and inter-racial relationship cannot fail to exert an influence for good in the settlement of this most important question," says Mr. Cottrill, who is in this country for the purpose of carrying to his people a message of encouragement and optimism.

SOME COMPARISONS.

The New York *Independent* gets the following interesting facts and figures from the Honolulu *Friend*:

"The records were looked up of the graduates for five years of the three largest Honolulu high schools and three grammar schools, 804 in all, of whom 251 were of American or North European parentage; 191 Chinese; 113 Japanese; 112 mixed white and Hawaiians; 77 Portugese; 28 Hawaiians; 22 Chinese-Hawaiians, and 10 Koreans. Of the Japanese graduates 30.1 per cent. obtained the grade of A, or 90, on a scale of 100; of the Koreans, 30 per cent.; of the Chinese 26.7; of the Chinese-Hawaiians 18.2; of the white Hawaiians 16; of the American and North European 13.2; of the Portuguese 11.7, and of the pure Hawaiians 10.7 per cent."

These figures are very significant. It might be argued that in the semi-tropical and enervating climate of Honolulu the white students were not able to put forth their best efforts. Even if that is the case, it is also true that the Orientals showed that they not only have the mental capacity for taking in knowledge, but that they have the stamina necessary for acquiring it under conditions which made the task impossible for their white competitors.

If an experiment of this sort were tried in the South on white and colored students it is quite likely that the results would be fully as astonishing and a great deal more embarrassing.

Needs of the Modern Negro.

To the Editor of The News:

Sir—In such higher schools of learning as the State Normal the young negro finds out just what is his difficulty in adapting himself to his educational environment. One of the greatest difficulties he encounters is his inability to believe in the theories of high standards of womanhood. Does this mean that the negro is inferior to any other race, or does it mean that some one must lead him out of this bondage just as other races and nations have been led, who a chieved great things in the word? History tells us that for several centuries the parent race from which the negro descended has held a low standard of womanhood, and it again reminds us that no race whose women are thus enslaved can hope for greater progress than this condition signifies. Thus the solution to the further progress of the negro lies in the development of higher ideals. Progress in this line can come from but one source, and that is the younger negro, such as attends the State Normal school and other institutions of higher learning, and such as is found in the Y. M. C. A. of your city. The young negro needs a place where he can emulate the high ideals and principles of life, which he absorbs at the above institutions, and where he will not be hampered by the interference of those older people of the race who believe progress in these lines is impossible. His development in pursuance of these life-giving principles will necessarily be slow, for he must overcome the vices of centuries; but every great thing had its beginning, and "we rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things." Again, every race or nation of any moment has come through this same stage. We, the younger generation, are inspired with hope by these lines: Greatly begin, though thou hast time for but a line. Be that sublime, not failure, but low aim is crime." Now we ask the support and co-operation of the country at large in establishing a Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. in connection with this state school, which shall have for its chief aim the development of our young men and young women in this respect.

DIZETTA RUSSELL,
A Taxpayer and Normal Student.
Terre Haute, Ind.

A NEW EMANCIPATION.

The decrease in the death rate of he colored population is considerably n excess of the decrease in that of he white population, according to the Bureau of the Census. The greate longevity among the colored people i attributed to the growth of hom ownership among them. To-day thos living in the South own 102,000, or 31.4 per cent. more homes than they did in 1900, and of these 30,449 are farm homes.

The census figures represent a comparison between 1900 and 1910, the decline in the death rates for the two races being, for colored 3.4 and for whites 2.5 to the thousand population. In 1900 the mortality rate among the colored people was 29.4 to the thousand persons, while in 1910 it was 25.5.

These figures prove that the colored race, in the South, has passed the stage of absolute dependency upon the white race and is becoming sufficient unto itself. The increased number of homes owned shows that their aspirations are solidly based and that they wish to do their share in the economic development of the land. The day of shiftlessness for them is passing; they are becoming emancipated from their own helplessness. They are engaging in the cultivation of the soil, purchasing farms for themselves as fast as they can, and that is the real foundation of any economic structure. They are encouraging industrial skill among the rising generations, so that they themselves may produce the things they want, and their increased efficiency as a race promotes ambition and stimulates effort.

Philadelphia Public Ledger

17 June 1915

NEGROES OF SOUTH SOLVING PROBLEM

Sociologist Asserts They Are Doing It by Becoming Property Owners

By a Staff Correspondent

ATLANTA, June 16.—After the blood of the North and the South was spilled to solve the so-called "negro problem," after 50 years of effort on the part of philanthropists and educators of both the North and the South have been expended in the effort to solve the problem, and with millions being spent now for its solution, the theory of Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University of North Carolina, who is himself a member of a committee for the expenditure of $3,500,000 for the betterment of the negro, that he is solving his own problem, is more than passing interest.

Doctor Branson, who is a sociologist of note, and who has devoted much study to the negro, now is of the belief that in the South he is working out his own salvation, not in terms of politics or education, but in terms of property ownership, and mainly in terms of land in rural regions.

The drift of the negro in the South is distinctly countryward, concludes Doctor Branson. With the exception of Arkansas and Oklahoma, the negro population is dwindling in general, but is increasing in ratio to white population in the farm regions. The negro population is decreasing in the cities, he finds, and in some cities so as to cause a real decrease in population.

Another interesting conclusion which Doctor Branson has drawn from his studies and investigations is that the negro is sticking to the farm better than the Southern white man. Some 50,000 negroes, he finds, are engaged in various professions, but fewer than 100,000 negroes are "upward-moving negroes." Doctor Branson continues:

"The negro, then, is wisely choosing or blindly moving to work out his own salvation as a race, not in city but country civilization."

He states that about one-fourth of all the negro farmers in the South own the farms they cultivate. In Florida the percentage is about one-half, in Kentucky and Oklahoma more than one-half, in Virginia and Maryland more than three-fifths of the negroes own their farms. Their farm properties are valued at $500,000,000. The sociologist concludes that the Russian serfs, after 50 years of freedom, have not made as great headway.

In 123 counties of 10 Southern States the negroes are in a majority. In 61 of these counties the negro farm-owners outnumber the white farm-owners. It is upon these results of his studies that Doctor Branson bases his opinion that the negro is solving his own problem.

Doctor Branson was recently appointed a member of the Executive Committee of the Jeanes Fund, which involves the expenditure of $3,500,000 for the betterment of negro conditions in the United States.

J. D. G.

NEW YORK CALL

March 1915

Press Club to Discuss Race Antagonisms

Socialist Writers Will Hear Many Distinguished Speakers at Dinner at Reisenweber's March 22.

What connection, if any, is there between the economic condition of the people of a nation and their race antagonism? Will Negro and white man ever meet upon a footing which disregards pigment and is conscious only of human brotherhood? Will Jew and Christian ever completely eradicate the ancient prejudice which still persists? Will the coming civilization reveal men to one another as world-dwellers of a common spirit and a common destiny, to whom racial differences are negligible accidents?

These are some of the questions which will doubtless be answered at the next dinner of the Socialist Press Club at Reisenweber's, Eighth avenue and 58th street, on Monday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., when the topic, "Can Socialism Obliterate Race Antagonisms?" will be discussed.

The list of speakers, which includes a number of distinguished names, is as follows: Prof. Franz Boas, of the Department of Anthropology of Columbia University; Prof. Jacques Loeb of the Rockefeller Institute; Dr. Robert Lowie, of the Department of Anthropology of the American Museum of Natural History; Louis B. Boudin, author of "The Theoretical System of Karl Marx"; Prof. W. E. B. Du Bois, active worker in behalf of the Negro and editor of the Crisis, and Henrietta Szold, ardent Zionist and secretary of the Jewish Publication Society. Mary White Ovington, author of books on the Negro question, will be the chairman.

Tickets for the dinner cost $1.25 each, including tip, and must be obtained in advance by sending order, with remittance, to Dr. J. W. Hartmann, 468 West 153d street.

GAINS FOR THE NEGRO PROVED

Analysis of the latest statistics available, soon to be issued formally with an interpretation by the federal government, shows steady rise of the negroes resident in the United States in important aspects of existence and in civic activities. Oftener than before he owns his own home, writes his own name to the deed by which he acquires the property, reads newspapers, books and the Bible and chooses to be moral and religious. Like his white neighbor he is turning from the country to the city, with all that this trend implies in the way of uplift or the reverse, according as the migrator chooses to live and as environment fashions.

To a greater degree than his white competitor in the labor market he finds employment constant on terms which employer rather than employee dictates. Unorganized as a wage-earner, the negro undergoes both the profit and loss of that status. For his education state aid and private philanthropy both wax as the year go by, and the result is shown in a steadily lowered rate of illiteracy, in increasing thrift and power as a property owning class, and in rising standards as to home and church.

With less representation in national or state polities than during the last decades of the nineteenth century, and with many, though not all, of the leaders of the race counseling opportunism in stressing civic rights while gains of an economic and cultural sort are being made, the descendants of former slaves continue on a way that is giving them many attainments not conspicuous hitherto in people of their race. Such gains are forcing a revised estimate of the potentialities of African Europeans and their descendants. That, even under such discriminations as exist with varying intensity, the American descendant of African ancestors so seldom chooses to reside elsewhere in the world, and goes to Africa only as teacher or preacher, is evidence of his relative well-being and of his common sense. When he contrasts what he was when Lincoln freed him with what he is now, he patiently renews his climb upward.—Christian Science Monitor.

10,000,000

Rights of the Colored Race Urged at Tremont Temple

Not since abolition days before the Civil war has such a meeting of protest been held in Boston as that of 3000 colored people at Tremont Temple yesterday afternoon, who gathered to voice their protest against the "unfair treatment" of the colored race by the white race.

Modern abolitionists, including Moorfield Storey, J. Mott Hallowell, Francis Garrison, the only living son of William Lloyd Garrison; Mrs. Frances H. Williams, niece of Wendell Phillips; Congressman Martin B. Madden of Illinois, the Hon. Samuel W. McCall, Mrs. Mary E. Wilson and Dr. J. E. Springarn of Washington joined in the protest, and for three hours the attitude of the white race towards the colored people was bitterly assailed.

EVEN CHURCH PREJUDICED

"There is an organized movement in this country to keep the colored people down," said Moorfield Storey.

"There is just as much Southern anti colored control in Congress today as before the war and they are just as much rebel in their hearts," said Congressman Madden.

"We have appealed to the church, believing Christ was in the church, to be judged by standards other people are judged by, yet there was never so much prejudice against us as there is today," said Mrs. Mary E. Wilson.

"The white man will never give the negro his rights until the negro demands those rights. The champions of the intermarriage bills aren't backing those bills to stop intermarrying but to put the black women of the country absolutely at the mercy of the white man," said Dr. J. E. Springarn.

Pass Resolutions

The meeting reached its climax when, amid great enthusiasm, J. Mott Hallowell offered the following resolutions which were passed unanimously:

"We pledge our loyalty to the republic of the United States and to the great principles for the perpetuation of which it was conceived and founded, freedom and equal opportunity for all.

"Without animosity or rancor, but firm in the belief that protest is urgently needed, we protest against the attempts in the national Congress by certain men from one section of the country to extend through national laws their un-American and sectional doctrines of race humiliation.

"Segregation and Jim Crow legislation will prevent no evil and will only arouse race hatred.

"Racial blood intermixture between white people and colored people will never be prevented by laws which punish marriage and open the door to immorality.

"If this country is civilized it should protect all women regardless of color. The proposed anti-marriage law is merely a flimsy pretence, the sole result of which would be the protection of the white libertine.

"Resolved, that these resolutions be printed, and a copy sent to each member of the Sixty-fourth Congress and to the President."

Moorfield Storey, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, presided, and in opening the meeting said:

"It is more necessary than ever before to arouse the conscience of the American people to a point where they will treat 10,000,000 of their population the same as they treat the rest.

"In regard to the colored people, we find the door of opportunity closed everywhere.

"If these people are only suspected of crime they are liable to be seized and without trial hanged and tortured. If they want to work the doors of the neighboring unions are closed to them. In some quarters they are denied the right to carry on agriculture. States are passing laws regarding whom they shall marry. The hotels, the theatres, are closed to them. In some quarters they are allowed to travel only in certain ways. They are constantly being subjected to indignities of every sort through a cowardly and wicked policy.

"People far and wide should refuse to vote for a man unless he declares himself on this subject."

"A Southern Blight"

Congressman Martin B. Madden of Illinois began by saying that this country today is troubled with Southern blight which prevents a healthy growth of our institutions.

"Men of the South," he said, "come and stay in Congress and when they are through their sons come and take their places. Every committee of importance in our national affairs is headed by a Confederate soldier. They are in greater control today than they were before the war and they are just as much rebel in their hearts.

"I have given my life to the cause of liberty and justice. Men of the colored race engaged in the wars of this country. They offered themselves that this country might be free. They fought in 448 engagements and left over 38,000 on the battlefields. The country owes them a debt and to repay that debt is to give them a chance in life."

Protests Wrongs of Ten Millions

Dr. J. E. Springarn, chairman of the board of directors of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said, "I have come to Boston to protest the wrongs of 10 millions of people. I have come to rouse the black man from his apathy and indifference and to let them know that with them rests the question of whether they will have justice. You colored men and women must never rest until you force men in Congress to get up and fight for a justice white men need as much as you. We must teach 80,000,000 that they have been unjust to 10,000,000."

THE CASE OF THE NEGRO.

There is present in many parts of the country a regrettable tendency to form impressions of the negroes as a whole from the irresponsible and indolent members of that race, of which specimens can generally be found. Any race would fare ill if such a test were applied. It is well that occasionally the facts regarding the progress of the colored people on a large scale should be put before us in order that these false impressions may have a corrective.

By this we mean such facts as the following: A census bulletin reports that in 1910, there were living in the United States 9,827,763 negroes. These people operate 893,000 farms, valued at $1,142,000,000. Twenty-two percent of the whole own their own homes, and 71 percent of those above the age of 10 years are engaged in gainful occupations. About 80 percent of the negroes of the country are of pure negro blood, and 3,685,097 are members of church organizations.

These facts may be studied from any angle one chooses, that is, from a moral or religious, from that of industry, from that of thrift, from that of the productiveness of people in wealth, from that of home-making and home-owning, and from all of them the showing is good. A few days ago we remembered the 50th anniversary of the death of Lincoln. We are even now in the days which mark the 50th anniversary of the ending of the war. That the negroes of the country, thrown helplessly adrift at the close of that war, should have made the progress they have done is a better tribute to them than many words. Praise is not to be assumed, of course, as it so often is, by the shiftless and showy members of the race; but those are themselves self-respecting and industrious have reason for pride in the progress made by a people so short a time out of savagery.

The record of the past is the best prophecy of the progress of the future.

THE NEGRO AND JUSTICE.

(From Northwestern Christian Advocate.)

Editor Northwestern Christian Advocate:

I read with great interest the article, "The Scribbler Lady Writes without a Text," in your issue of February 17, in which the writer attempts to answer the sentiment expressed in a poem by James D. Corrothers concerning the Negro "At the Closed Gate of Justice" by citing an instance of a Negro girl who was awarded first honor in the high school of her city. I was very much disappointed that she did not pursue the career of this brilliant young lady further. For I do not think that there is much complaint among Negroes, about being allowed to wear the first honors which they win in school. The complaint is that having won the honors in school, having shown the capacity, after school days, they, too often, find themselves "at the closed gate of justice;" when the prize is not the valedictory on commencement night (which too often is a real valedictory), but daily bread.

R. R. WRIGHT, JR.

80,000,000
IN JUST TO

Race Problem-1915
United States.

Houston, Tex.
MAY 25 1915

The Capability of the Negro Race

(*An address before the institute of teachers of the negro schools of Houston by Prof. E. L. Blackshear, principal of the Prairieview State Normal and Industrial college for colored youths.*)

During the war between the States, that war whose battle of Gettysburg marks the climax of all that was romantic and chivalric in war as poetically conceived in contrast to the purely mechanical and impersonal carnage of the present great war in Europe, the Morril act was passed by the congress of the United States and signed by the immortal President Lincoln. This act was introduced by Senator Justin Morrill of Vermont and its passage attracted little notice at the time, engrossed as the nation was in the interests arising out of the war of the States. Yet the Morril act was wholly unique in the history of civilization. Never before had such sums been spent for mechanical and agricultural education in the schools of a people. Each of the States became entitled to a free appropriation of $25,000 annually. A subsequent act of congress has increased this sum to $50,000 annually for each State. Thus a vast work of popular practical education was inaugurated, and in all the Southern States it was made obligatory that a part of this money should be spent for the colored people of these States and on this foundation rests the establishment and maintenance of Southern State colleges for negro youth including the Prairie View State normal and industrial college. Thus do we the negroes of the South owe to the wisdom, foresight and broad-minded spirit of Senator Justin Morril of Vermont a debt of imperishable gratitude and profound respect as one of the great builders of American civilization.

MANY HELPS FOR EDUCATIONAL MOVEMENT.

But the Morril fund is not the only agency that is responsible for the inauguration of the educational movement among the negro people of the South. We owe a debt to the organized Christianity of this nation we could never have repaid except as we have taken advantage of the opportunities which the American Christian denominations have offered us and still offer us in schools established as Christian educational missions among the negro people. The Methodist Episcopal church, South, the Southern Presbyterians, the Northern Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians, the Christian church, Roman Catholics and the Congregationalists have all contributed to the education and civilization as well as to the evangelization of the negroes of the United States. Such institutions as Fisk, Walden at Nashville, Straight and Leland at New Orleans, Atlanta, Clark and Atlanta Baptist college at Atlanta, Emerson at Mobile, Chaflin at Orangeburg, S. C., Shaw at Raleigh, Talladega college in Alabama, the Hartshorn Memoriam college and Virginia Union seminary at Richmond, Bishop and Wiley at Marshall, Texas, Tillotson and Samuel Huston at Austin, and Mary Allen at Crockett, Texas, have exerted an inestimable influence in christianizing as well as educating the negroes and in lightening that historic burden which the white man bears in all lands and zones of the globe. Nor should we fail to mention the many institutions established and sustained by negroes themselves with little if any outside aid of which the Central Texas college at Waco, the Industrial college at Fort Worth and Huston college are excellent examples.

SIGNIFICANT HISTORY OF NEGRO EDUCATION.

But no less significant in the brief but interesting history of negro education has been the rise and growth of what is known as industrial education as first inaugurated by General Armstrong in army barracks at Hampton, Virginia, and which has since become the Hampton institute of national fame. This industrial idea of education born in the brain of a Christian federal officer, General Armstrong, who was born the son of missionary parents in the Hawaiian islands, was taken up by his great pupil, Booker T. Washington, a slave child of the hills of West Virginia and popularized by successful exemplification at the Tuskegee institution and by skilful delineation on the lecture platform and in the public press and printed page that industrial education has become the theme of the hour not only for negroes but for the whites as well. It is Dr. Washington himself who tells in his inimitable way how when the white man takes over an occupation formerly monopolized by negroes he always gives a new name to the occupation which at the same time he refines and improves. Thus the black man's barber shop becomes the white man's tonsorial parlors and Uncle Sambo's whitewashing becomes Mr. George's kalsomining and artistic mural decoration. And now Dr. Washington's simple industrial training has become for the white man, vocational education viewed in its varied psychological, economic, historic, physiological, ethical, esthetic and social phases. However, jesting aside, this is one secret of the white man's progress—his wonderful ability to analyze a thought, a process or a phenomenon and to throw these parts into new and amazing synthesis. Dr. Washington's conception of industrial education for the negro and of its relation to the South's economic possibilities and welfare met with instant approval from white approval North and South but as for us his own people the plan of industrial education met with strong opposition for a number of years.

THE VICTORY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON.

But today the victory of Dr. Washington's propaganda is well-nigh complete, but the trouble so far as negroes are concerned is that equipment for industrial education is expensive, and trained teachers of the industrial arts are few and far between. Among the white Americans North and South, there is' no longer any doubt as to the value of industrial education and vast sums are spent annually to equip the white boy to meet the industrial needs of his day. While although all acknowledge now that industrial education is the great need of of the negro youth yet but little is really being adequately undertaken in their behalf except in a few progressive cities like Houston, where under the influence of that prince among educators and Christian leaders, philosophers and statesmen, Hon. P. W. Horn, much has already been undertaken and still greater things may be hoped for. Yet in many places small beginnings are being inaugurated out of which the needful facilities may yet develop. One thing is certain; he who opposes industrial education for the colored people is indeed blind and can not read the signs of the times. Of all races we need most to revise our estimate of the dignity and value of labor and to acquire a permanent conception of the true relation of labor to health, wealth and morals. If there is ever to be an aristocracy of our race let is be that of those who are industrious and at the same time morally decent—an aristocracy of honest thrift and not one of sham and pretense and mere aping of the extravagancies of the white race. Indeed we should emulate the less obvious and really fundamental qualities of the white race on which its progress has rested—the stern qualities of thrift, character, economy, will-power and self-mastery. Of all peoples we need most for example the simple lessons of saving and economy, of present self-sacrifice for the future good.

WHAT DR. KNAPP ACCOMPLISHED.

We turn aside from the consideration of the movement of industrial education with which the name of Dr. Washington will be forever closely associated to that of another related movement inaugurated in the South by a Northern man whose name will live always in the memories and affections of the white South, a man whose achievements, however, have had a far-reaching effect on both races and on all sections of our common country. I refer, of course, to Dr. Seaman Knapp, and I quote verbatim a brief skentch of his work taken from the recently issued report of the general education board 1902-1914, a valuable document which may be had free by addressing General Education Board, 61 Broadway, New York N. Y. Says this report:

The Mexican cotton boll weevil was just beginnig its devastations. As the pest spread, a panic had taken place in Texas. Cotton was the principal crop, and the days of its profitable cultivation seemed to be numbered. Farms were abandoned and counties well nigh depopulated. Acting for the United States department of agriculture, Dr. Knapp in 1903 established a community demonstration farm at Terrell, Texas, for the purpose of showing farmers how cotton could be raised despite the boll weevil, with such success, indeed, that from one point of view, the boll weevil curse proved a sort of blessing in disguise. By means of the improved methods employed by Dr. Knapp, the production of cotton was actually increased and normal business conditions were accordingly restored.

Dr. Knapp's procedure was the very essence of simplicty. He knew that through seed selection and intensive farming the productivity of lands could be immensely augmented; in a word, more could be gained through intelligence than was lost through the weevil. In every afflicted vicinity Dr. Knapp undertook to propagate his methods by actual "demonstration" of their value.

DR. KNAPP'S PLAN A SIMPLE ONE.

Selecting a relatively capable farmer in a given neighborhood, Dr. Knapp induced him to plant and cultivate a certain amount of land in a certain way with a certain kind of seed; he relied on the natural imitative instict to induce others to follow when once the result called attention to the superiority of the process. His bearing in the field was characteristic and inimitable. Aproaching the farmer whom he desired to interest, he carried on a dialogue somewhat in this fashion:

"I have a cotton seed," he would explain, "which has been carefully selected through a long series of years. The planting of this seed and its proper cultivation will more than double your yield of cotton.

"We have come to you as a leading farmer of this vicinity and would like to have you make a demonstration of its value. The demonstration, we believe, will not only convince you of the value of good seed and of scientific tillage, but will also teach your neighbors the same thing."

Interest once aroused and confidence gained the necessary conditions were broached one by one. The land must be plowed in the fall. "Why?" Because fall plowing gives mellowness to the soil and affords nature an opportunity to prepare plant food for the coming season. Moreover, the rows of cotton must be planted wide apart. "Why?" Because 85 per cent or more of all vegetation is light and air; if the rows are close together the cotton is starved and smothered. Again, the cotton must be cultivated six or eight times. "Why?" Because there is plenty of moisture down by the roots and you can keep it there only by constantly breaking up the soil so that it may not be evaporated by the heat of the sun. Thus the demonstration was in the first instance a simple object lesson. A few shrewd aphorisms controlled Dr. Knapp's procedure: "Don't confuse the people by elaborate programs; the average man, like the crow, can not count more than three." And again, "Do the next thing." He formulated and widely circulated

TEN AGRICULTURAL COMMANDMENTS.

1. The removal of all surplus water on and in the soil.
2. Deep fall plowing, and in the South a winter cover crop (oats, wheat, etc.).
3. The best seed, including variety and quality.
4. Proper spacing of plants.
5. Intensive cultivation and systematic rotation of crops.
6. The judicious use of barnyard manure, legumes and commercial fertilizers.
7. The home production of the food required for the family and for the stock.
8. The use of more horsepower and better machinery.
9. The raising of more and better stock, including the cultivation of grasses and forage plants.
10. Keeping an accurate account of the cost of farm operations.

Such, in brief, is the general education board's sketch of the work of the immortal Seaman Knapp, and in this work is seen the germ of that great extension work which is the fruit of the congressional effort of a great South Carolina statesman, Hon. Mr. Lever, and the methods of this work will be but the extension to every phase of rural life in the United States of the methods of the late lamented Dr. Seaman Knapp.

THE LEVER FUND EPOCHAL ADVANCE.

Unlike the Morrill fund, however, the Lever fund, which will place at the disposal of the States ultimately a total of several millions of dollars for extension work among the people on the farm, conditioned on each State's appropriation of a sum equal to what it receives from the federal government, the Lever fund act did not make it obligatory that a share of what each State receives should be spent for the benefit of the negro people. In Alabama a part of the Lever fund has, however, been set apart for the negroes, and in Texas Hon. Clarence Ousley, director of extension, announces that a part of the Lever fund allotted Texas will probably be spent among the negroes. Yet even though no part of the Lever fund were spent in any State specifically for work among negroes, still the negroes will benefit by the example of their white neighbors and by information gained directly and indirectly from them. Knowledge, like light, has a way of sending its rays in all directions, and, like life itself, has its own modes of propagation; when once it gets started on its way. In this great nation, where the white light of science beats down in mighty floods of radiation upon all her institutions of art, of learning, of religion and of civilization, it will be strange indeed if the black people do not catch some ray of its benefits in every department of human thought and human endeavor; do not catch at least some crumbs falling from the groaning festal board of truth where the fruits of investigation increase in richness and abundance from hour to hour. A practical proof of such generalization is seen in the report of the general education board, page 54, on "Farm Demonstration Work Among Negro Farmers," which reads:

DEMONSTRATION AMONG NEGRO FARMERS.

"The negro farmer has been quick to take advantage of such opportunities in demonstration work as have been offered to him. In his very first report Dr. Knapp writes: 'As the bulk of cotton crops is produced by colored laborers and tenants, all of our agents are not only instructed but of their own choice select colored farmers as demonstrators, visiting them regularly and giving them every attention.' In some States, colored local agents work under the white State agent. At Mound Bayou, in the delta region of Mississippi, under a colored local agent, six demonstrators were started in 1907; 41 were in operation the following year, and the sum of $50 was raised by the colored people themselves for prizes. In Virginia a somewhat different plan is pursued, a district agent reporting directly to Washington being in charge. Hampton and Tuskegee institutes and many other industrial and agricultural schools for negroes have played essential parts in this development. Their training has produced agents and teachers, who go out into life persuaded that the fate of the race depends primarily on improved economic efficiency. Frequently, throughout the year, the negro farmers of the neighborhood or State are brought together to see and to value each other's product. Pride and solidarity are thus built upon.

DEMONSTRATION AMONG NEGROES.

The precise results due to demonstration efforts among negro farmers are difficult to give, because many colored farmers are enrolled under white agents; but the number of colored agents is gradually increasing. In 1910 there were 23; the next year 32. At the latter date 3709 negro farmers were reported by name, and it was estimated by the de-

partment that 20,000 were under instruction. The results were as good as those obtained by the whites. In South Carolina, for example (where, by the way, 56 per cent of the farms are operated by negroes without white supervision), there were, in 1911, 570 acres of cotton and 449 acres of corn under demonstration by negroes.

The average yield per acre throughout the State was 795 pounds of seed cotton and 18.2 bushels of corn. The negro demonstrators averaged 1567.9 pounds of seed cotton and 38.1 bushels of corn. The gain in money at current prices approximated $24,000.

Among negroes as among whites the work tends to expand in scope. Demonstrators are instructed to procure information regarding the rural economy of the negro farmers, how many plow in the fall, have summer and winter gardens, keep a cow, care for poultry, pigs, etc. At Snow Hill, Alabama, the negro demonstrators have formed a club and agreed on "a standard," requiring every member to possess an enclosed garden, "in which something must be kept growing the year round," to keep at least one hog for each member of the family, not less than 30 hens, and one or two cows, to preserve or can fruit sufficient for the family's demands, to plant shrubs and whitewash the house, and to take at least one agricultural paper." Local agents report many instances of improved farm equipments due to demonstration work, home gardens, wire fences, new mules, harvesters, riding cultivators, drain drills, enlarged houses, cleaned premises and the liberal use of whitewash. The farm demonstrator and the farm demonstration arouse pride and stimulate energy. The net outcome has never been more picturesquely summed up than by a negro farmer in Virginia: "You done turned the kivers down and waked us up."

The general education board has also undertaken a special work among negroes to improve negro rural schools under the idea that it is the rural school that is the thing of special interest for negro improvement since 80 per cent of the negroes in the Southern States live on the farm. Beginning on page 194 we read as follows:

STATE SUPERVISORS OF NEGRO RURAL SCHOOLS.

For the purpose of arousing interest in furnishing intelligent and specialized guidance, a State supervisor of negro schools was supported in Virginia by the Peabody educational fund and the Southern educational board. The appointee had already demonstrated the value of such supervision while superintendent of schools in Henrico county, Virginia. The general educational board, recognizing the importance of this work, decided to extend it throughout the South as opportunity occurred. The board offered to co-operate with state departments of education by furnishing funds adequated to pay the salaries and expenses of State agents for negro rural schools. Appropriations were to be made to the state departments and only on application of these departments; the agent, or supervisor, as he is usually called, was to be chosen by the State superintendent of education and thus become a State official with all the powers and responsibilities of such a position. On this basis agents are now supported by the general educational board in the States of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

These agents are white men who have had large and successful experience in school management. They have in every instance gained the confidence not only of the colored people and the public school authorities, but of white citizens in general. As representing the state department they have the entree to all counties, communities and schools; they transact the State's business with county superintendents, county school boards, local trustees and teachers. They interest the negroes of a vicinity in the local school and bring the two races to join in its improvement. Substantial sums have been obtained from both races for local school improvement. They have already brought about the consolidation of several weak schools into central schools; they have participated in planning and constructing school buildings; in choosing teachers, in improving the curriculum, especially along industrial and domestic lines; in effecting co-operation between the schools, farm demonstration and club agents, and in securing gradually increasing allotments from public funds, of which, however, the expenditures on the negro is still disproportionately small. For the support of these agents the general educational board appropriates $2500 each per year for salary and a sum of not to exceed $1000 each for necessary expenses.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE ANNA T. JEANES' FUND.

The effectiveness of this work has been greatly increased by its intimate association with the activities of the industrial supervisors and teachers supported by the Jeanes' fund. These teachers, appointed by the county superintendents and working under his direction, are at the same time in close co-operation with the State agent maintained by the general education board. At the present time 128 such teachers are at work. They are for the most part graduates of Hampton, Tuskegee, Petersburg, Fisk, Atlanta, Spelman and kindred institutions. Each teacher visits a number of county schools, gives a lesson in some industry, plans with the regular teacher to give additional lessons in her absence, organizes parents' clubs, and starts a movement for better school equipment or longer term, counsels the local teacher about her daily teaching, and stirs the community to united efforts to better the school. Many of these teachers are employed for the entire year; when school is no longer in session, they carry on similar work in the community. Wherever the industrial teacher and the rural school supervisor have gone, quick improvement is perceptible in the physical appearance of grounds, buildings and pupils. Improvement leagues are formed; money is raised by subscription to paint or whitewash the building, to buy a stove and procure the necessary equipment for cooking classes both among the girls and their mothers. Elementary sanitation is inculcated, fairs and exhibitions are held through which the results are brought together for the pleasure and enlightenment of pupils and patrons. In 1912-13, 23 supervising teachers worked under the general direction of the State supervisors in 25 Virginia counties; 591 schools were visited, 417 of them regularly; 189 extended their term by one month, their patrons bearing the expense; 20 new school houses were built at a cost of $23,808; 15 more were enlarged at a cost of $2,212; 428 school leagues raised among negroes $22,655.

In 1913-14, supervising industrial teachers worked in 27 counties; 22 new negro school houses, costing $18,230, were built; 12 enlarged, at a cost of $3612; 182 extended their terms one month through subscriptions, mainly of their patrons; 125 sanitary outhouses were built! $28,673 was raised by negroes for school improvements.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN VIRGINIA.

It is impossible to draw a sharp line between this work and that of the clubs described as part of the farm demonstrations. In Virginia, for example, 14 teachers report 617 girls in clubs of 15 counties with 416 home gardens of which two thirds are "excellent;" the girls put up 10,504 jars of vegetables for home use, their mothers 12,269. "I spent August 5 and 6 with Superintendent Washington of Caroline county," writes the State supervisor in September, 1913.

"We joined the supervising teacher and the special agent in charge of canning clubs, and drove through the county, visiting the gardens of the various members of the club. Every garden was laid off in straight rows, usually eight, with a walk in the middle. There were two rows of flowers, two rows of cabbage, two rows of snap beans, one early and one late, and two rows of tomatoes. They were well cultivated, clean of weeds. Most of them had resisted the temptation to 'hill' the tomatoes, and cultivated level, as they were directed. In nearly every case the tomatoes were held up by some support."

On the 8th there was held at Bowling Green the first conference of girls' canning and poultry clubs of Caroline county. Nearly all of the eight members were present with their parents and other members of their families. They brought exhibits of their vegetables, can goods, bread, cake, sewing, poultry, etc. Simple prizes given by the county school board were awarded. Girls who had been most successful and those who had overcome unusual difficulties were called on to tell how they cultivated their gardens, how they made fences, how they canned their tomatoes or baked bread. The prize for the best kept garden was awarded to two motherless girls, 11 and 12 years of age, who kept house for their father. Their garden, located in a piece of newly cleared land, was a model of neatness and careful cultivation. Similar experiences can be reported from the other States.

IMPROVED RELATIONS OF THE RACES.

A more cordial relation between the races has followed in the wake of educational progress. Nothing, indeed, is of fairer promise than the awakened interest of the white—superintendent and laymen—in the improvement of negro schools. For example, a conference of Alabama county superintendents with the State superintendent and the State supervisor of negro schools visits Tuskegee institute in a body and confesses "a new vision in regard to the negro"; again, the State supervisor addresses the Young Men's Christian Association of the State college of agriculture at Auburn, Ala., on the negro problem, and 45 members subsequently accompany him on a visit of inspection to Tuskegee. At one of the summer institutes held for negro teachers in Georgia the work of the negro industrial teacher was so novel and interesting that the white county superintendent asked her to come over to the white institute in order to give a demonstration of her work. She was kept half a day answering questions and explaining the way she did the work. At other times, white teachers have gone to see what the negroes were doing in their institutes. What they observe surprises the whites, and the experience affords pleasure and stimulation to the negro teachers. "Shall this not be a mighty entering wedge to reach the prejudice and sympathies of the white people?" asks the State agent in reporting the incidents. From North Carolina comes an account of a meeting of leading white citizens at the Slater normal school for negroes. Among them were the city and county superintendents of schools and several members of the board of trustees. The object of the meeting was to study the condition and needs of the normal school in order to devise means by which it may train more and better teachers and serve the negro race more effectively. Plans for the erection of a new dormitory for girls and for improving the teacher training course was discussed."

THE CAPABILITY OF THE NEGRO RACE.

Can any one doubt the capability of the negroes to respond to modern industrial cultural methods? Our past achievements as negroes are such too as to awaken new confidence in ourselves and new hope and determination for the future. We constitute a population of 9,827,763, or 10.7 per cent of the total population in 1910. Only 47.3 per cent of the negro school population of 6 to 20 years, inclusive, enjoy school advantages as compared to 66.9 per cent of the whites and yet with an average school attendance of only about three months in the year ye have reduced our illiteracy since 1865 from 100 per cent to 30.4 per cent. In 1910 Southern negroes owned 1,917,391 homes, an increase in home owning over 1900 or 2.4 per cent. Of the total number of negroes over 10 years of age, namely 7,317,292, 71 per cent, or 5,192,535, were engaged in self-supporting labor. The total number of farms in the United States in 1910 was 6,361,500, of which negroes operated 893,370, representing a total value in investment of $1,142,00,000. Three-fourths of the negro farmers were tenants and one-fourth were owners. Perhaps most remarkable of all the revelations of the census of 1910 is the fact that the death rate of the negroes showed a decrease of 3.9 per cent, although the death rate of the negroes is still almost twice as high as that of the whites, showing there is yet a vast work of reform in hygiene and sanitation to be achieved among negroes.

Teachers of my race, let us gird our loins anew and put on the whole armor of righteousness and efficiency. Let us study anew the problems of education, that wonderful process which as being a characteristic of living beings is in reality as indefinable as life itself. But by its fruits we can know, define and direct it. And who can doubt that it is in all races and under all its names and guises eventually a moral process, a development of character, of essential manhood and womanhood. In these days the slogan of all efforts is service and the good of education is thus a moral one—Service to our fellow men and "as ye would that men should do to you do ye even so to them," said the Great Teacher, who also said he came not to be ministered unto but to minister unto others and who girded his loins and washed his disciples' feet and who declared on one occasion "He that would be greatest among you let him be servant of all." He gave his life for man and in his name and baptised in his spirit let us give our lives to the children of our race, in the spirit of him who loved little children and said, "Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Let us as teachers of a race inculcuate the spirit of friendliness toward the white race and indeed toward all races of men. Nothing is so potent as love and kindness and love is the great solvent of all problems as it is also the fulfilling of the law of our being. The world is in the throes of a worldwide war but by and by peace will come and will again encircle the globe as an earnest of the greater and more enduring peace of Christ between all races of men which the choral angels once sang about to awe-struck shepherds above Judea's moonlit plains, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

THE NEGRO AS A HOME OWNER.

For several years associations interested in the advancement of the negro race have urged on Southern negroes the advantage of owning their homes. The negro is naturally home loving. He is not by nature inclined to rove from the place where he has attained maturity, yet it was found that the number of negroes who owned their home was small. This movement seems to have met with the approval of the negroes, especially in the Southern states. A recent census bulletin shows that in 1910 there were in these states 1,917,391 negro homes, of which 430,449 or 22.4 per cent, were owned by negroes. In Virginia the percentage rises to 41.3 but the negroes farther South appear to be slower to adopt the home-buying plan, for in Georgia the percentage drops to 14.7. The total increase, however, is substantial, and this is a hopeful sign which should give encouragement to all interested in the progress of the race.

This bulletin also shows a marked increase in the percentage of schools, a decided decrease in the percentage of illiteracy, a decrease in the mortality rate, and an increase in the proportion of church membership. Another feature in connection with the report worthy of special notice is that all the work on it, including the preparation of the statistical tables, as well as the clerical work, was done by negro employes of the department.

In 1790 the negro population of the United States was 757,208, which at that time was 19.3 per cent of the total population of the country. In 1910 the negro population was 9,827,763, or 10.7 per cent of the total population. It should be remembered in this connection, however, that since 1810 there has been practically no negro immigration into this country, while the white population has been constantly augmented by the inflow of immigrants from Europe. The report shows that 99.2 per cent of all negroes in the United States in 1910 were natives of native parentage, while the remainder were of foreign or mixed foreign and native parentage. Thus it would appear that the race is in no danger from dying by the slow process of race suicide.

Race Problem - 1915
United States

SELF-SATISFIED IGNORANCE.

8-6-15 —Advertiser

We were impressed with an article in Collier's written by Carl Snyder, guaranteed by the magazine to be "a scientist of standing," on "How Long Can Germany Last?" We were impressed until we ran across this false and misleading statement: "The ruination of the South wrought by the war was simply the ruin of its rich planters and of the slave oligarchy, which had been the backbone of the Southern industrial system."

When we got that far we dropped Collier's and we dropped Mr. Snyder. When a man with airy self-assurance, disporting himself as a "scientist of standing," incites such a false and misleading statement, he writes himself down as either ignorant or prejudiced. In this case, Mr. Snyder's ignorance preceded out of a preconceived prejudice. He has probably never been brought into contact with the actual facts of the terrible struggle of the South to restore her industrial and commercial prosperity after the war. It was an undertaking requiring more than forty years; and today, if Northern writers are sincere in wondering why the South has not been abreast of the East and the North in industrial development, they have but to look for the terrible effects of the war, and the injustices visited upon the South in the years directly following the war.

The freeing of the slaves was but one, and a lesser one, of the industrial tragedies of the war. To many large planters, the sudden destruction of the institution of slavery was a severe financial blow, but they formed only a fraction of the population of the South, even as the slaves formed but a fraction of the wealth of the South. Again, there was some compensation for the planters after the war, when, due to the after effects of the blockade, cotton was worth from fifteen to thirty cents a pound. Raising cotton at that price with free labor was more profitable than raising at the former prices with slave labor.

The South was worse hurt in the destruction of all business and of all industry. There was nothing to do business with when the war ended. Grass grew in the business streets of most of the Southern cities. In Montgomery business buildings sold for hardly the cost of the brick that went into their making. In this city alone, cotton to the value of six million dollars went up in smoke in the closing days of the war. The invading troops made it a practice of burning manufacturing enterprises. The blackened walls of cotton and other factories marked the progress of the victorious Federal troops through the South.

The University of Alabama was left a few smoldering ruins. It was so utterly destroyed and the people of the State were so impoverished that several years after the war, when it was under Reconstruction management, this University, which had been one of the most prosperous in the Southern States, had only one student.

The railroads of the South were torn up and the ties burned in many places. Banking facilities of any character were rare and difficult to reach. And, the flower of the manhood of the section, the men who should have been bearing the burdens of its commerce and its industry, were dead upon a hundred battle fields.

No, the financial loss involved in the abolition of slavery was but small when compared to the business desolation, due to other losses which followed the war.

THE LINCOLN ANNIVERSARY.

Contribution 2-11-15

Time as a softener of animosities is materially aided by the revelation, appreciation and understanding of the truth. There is, perhaps, no more remarkable instance of this fact than the case of Abraham Lincoln and his attitude toward the south. The growth of this feeling with regard to Lincoln is especially emphasized in connection with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his tragic and untimely death in April, 1865.

There is, perhaps, no student of history, of the conditions of those times, but will now concede and even insist that if Lincoln had not been assassinated, the south would have been relieved of many of the burdens she had to bear and her people would have been spared many of the horrors of reconstruction. Lincoln did not hate the south; he loved the nation. It was his aim to maintain it as a whole. He wanted to reach an amicable adjustment of the dispute; cabinet friction and reactionaries constituted the chief difficulty with which the president had to contend.

Evidence of this just and lenient disposition upon Lincoln's part is seen in a statement by David H. Bates, intimately associated with him for a period of four years, in an article just written incident to the semi-centennial anniversary of his death. Mr. Bates clearly did not take the same view as did the gentle, humanitarian Lincoln. This may be judged from his statement:

> "We reasoned also that our stricken president during his lifetime had been so patient and lenient with his enemies that if he had been spared perhaps he would have adopted a policy of condonation that would deprive us of the real fruits of the war and lead to the return to political power of those who had helped to cause it."

Lincoln's cabinet, his associates, were bent upon punishment of the vanquished. In the president himself were combined both authority and lenient spirit. His own associates recognized it, and, unable to force him to sternness and tyranny, they would at least have turned the whole tide of their power and influence to the staying of his mitigating hand.

Time and a better understanding of character and events have proven that in Lincoln the south had a friend instead of an enemy. It was with him not a question of castigation of what those around him considered rebel territory, but deep-rooted conviction as to what was best for south and north and east and west—for the nation as an integral whole. That was Lincoln's great idea, and who can doubt, big man that he was, that had he lived, he would with gentle and persistent force and authority have carried everything before him and solved the problem of the south's restitution to the nation in a manner that would have brought far speedier harmony and accord.

History has established that his death was a deplorable loss to the south. He was the one man who could have and would have averted reconstruction's horrors. The south today recognizes this fact—knows now that in Lincoln it had a true, a genuine friend—and is ready to accord him tha place in history which he so well deserves.

"SOUTHERN BLIGHT" GREAT TROUBLE WITH COUNTRY

3-8-15

Such is Declaration of Congressman Madden of Illinois to Boston Negro Meeting.

a Dispatch 3-8

BOSTON, MASS., March 7.—Discrimination by Congress or by State legislatures against negroes was condemned at a mass meeting here today at which Moorfield Etorey of Boston, and Congressman Martin B. Madden of Illinois, were speakers. Congressman Madden declared the great trouble with the country was "Southern blight," due largely, he said, "to the influence of Southern members of Congress, who are so powerful that they virtually control legislation, although representing only one-fourth of the population of the country."

The meeting was under the auspices of the Boston branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

WHY DIDN'T BILLY SUNDAY TOUCH IT?

The Christian Register

The most delicate question among us today is the race question—delicate because the dominant people seem to have made up their minds not to admit black people into the Christian Brotherhood.

Nothing that has happened in recent years in this city shows how delicate the question is than the avoidance of it by "Billy" Sunday, regarded by some as the most courageous man in the pulpit of today. "Billy" touched almost every other known wrong; but he dared not refer to the Negro's treatment. He spoke of whiskey and saloons, of sweat shops and underpaid workers, of brothels and gambling hells, of bad housing and high rents. He spoke of the relation of employer to employee, of politician to city, of business to the public, but never of the nation to the black man. Of this he must have been afraid; for he certainly could not have been ignorant.

The psychology of it is clear. Billy knew that on any of the other subjects he had at the worst a half-approving audience. He knew that the public conscience has been sufficiently awakened to give approval, even though it does not give practical demonstration to his arguments about other wrongs. But for justice for the black man there is no such public conscience. The nation will not apply its Bible to the Negro. The idea of Brotherhood, Neighbor, Square Deal, or whatever you might call it, which is fundamental in the teaching of Jesus, the nation seems determined to deny the Negro, and to label its Christianity "For Whites Only." Billy Sunday knows this, and as great as he is, he did not dare tackle it. In this respect he was a disappointment to us.

We cannot escape it, the test of American Christianity is the treatment of the black man. Race prejudice is the one thing which shows the weakness of Christianity far more than anything else. We can sympathize with Europe, now confusing a selfish, bloody patriotism with Christianity, when we know that America is no better, if as good. And Billy Sunday was not willing, or able, to overcome the pressure of the American race prejudice.

We must therefore put him down, not among the real prophets of the age, though we acknowledge to him a certain kind of greatness. We cannot put him in the class with a Beecher, or a Garrison, nor even a Moody; not as high as some of the Unitarians he loves to berate.

But we hope we are wrong. We should watch Philadelphia and see if there has been any perceptible change in its treatment of the "brother in black," as a result of the recent religious awakening.

Shall the Negro Have a Chance?

Cincinnati
Christian Advocate 2/10/15

Bishop William F. Anderson, President of the Freedmen's Aid Society

The Emancipation Proclamation, while upon the surface the bestowal of liberty upon the Negro race, was in reality only the proclamation of the right of the Negro to attain freedom. Freedom is not of such a nature as that it can be proclaimed from the public square or given like a fine present by one man to another. Not even so great a personage as Lincoln could confer this high boon upon a race of underlings. God himself could not do it peremptorily by his own decree. Freedom is a personal attainment. It can be achieved only by tireless quest, by patient toil, by soul struggle, by defeat, discouragement, persistence.

The time element in the uplift of the American Negro must not be forgotten. The evolutionary process is "writ large" in racial and National development. It is not strange nor cause for discouragement that during these fifty years the race has only made a start towards the realization of the ideal. The child must walk before it can run. In the words of a song popular in certain sections of the South the Negro has been "inchin' along." During these fifty years the forces of Christian education in this country have been supplementing the Emancipation Proclamation in a most wholesome manner. They have been helping the Negro to work out a practical emancipation for himself. They have come to him in his poverty, his ignorance, his indolence, his natural and enforced degradation, and have bidden him to look up, to believe that it is possible for him to become a man. They have pleaded sometimes in the face of bitter opposition that he should have a chance. It has been insisted upon as right to train his hand, to discipline his brain, to vitalize his will, to cultivate his conscience to the quick and habitual recognition of moral valuations, to culture his heart with lofty Christian idealism. This is the program of Christian education for the Negro. And the Negro has been responding to it in commendable fashion.

The next step in his progress will be best made by driving it into his soul that his destiny is largely in his own hands; that he must work out his own salvation with fear and trembling; that unless he achieves it himself it can never be achieved. This is the law for races as well as for individuals. The most cruel thing about slavery was not the brutalities of the auction block; nor the heartless separations of families; nor the relentless punishments inflicted by the worst types of slave owners. It can hardly be doubted that many Negroes had a more comfortable time under slavery, so far as mere bodily comfort is concerned, than they have had since. With his natural love of dependence it is not strange that many of his heart melodies breathe out deep longing for "de massah of de olden day."

The most cruel thing about slavery was its denial by virtue of the very nature of the institution to the individual to struggle towards manhood; its denial to the race of the right to work out its providential mission. The individual was kept a mere dependent, and race realization was an impossibility. The existence of this race in the world is God's declaration of its providential mission.

He is the best friend of the Negro of to-day, who, by all sympathetic encouragement, aids him as an individual and a race to give all possible heed to the development of that quality known as "iron in the blood." The future of the Negro is "up to" the Negro himself. The best of them know it and are ready to accept the challenge. The encouragement for continued and increasing effort in their behalf is that in all their organizations there is a growing group of men who stand for the right, the high things. These men are increasingly influential among them. Efficient church leadership will see to it that this type shall have its opportunity; that worthy men among them shall be put into positions of responsibility.

This article would fail utterly of its purpose if it did not emphasize the responsibility of the rank and file of the membership of our great church to help in the uplift of the colored race. The white man of the past contributed very largely to make the Negro what he is. Be it the better part of the white man of the present to contribute largely to make him what under Christian training he may become. All that the Negro can in reason ask for himself, all that we can ask for him is a chance.

Letter to Editor 4/11/15

A great many of the daily newspapers throughout the country, especially in the North, are making a great deal of fuss over the fiftieth anniversary of the surrender of Lee at Appomattox, and rejoicing over the fact that the question of one or two governments on the soil of the United States has been forever settled in the favor of one government and that government the United States government and not the government of the Confederate States of America. They are making much of the fact that, notwithstanding the principal offices of the government are under the control of those of southern nativity, and some of them former Confederate soldiers, that there is perfect unanimity as to the results of the things which were fought for during those strenuous days.

We are willing to admit the fact that the South is perfectly satisfied with the results, altho occasionally we find here and there one of the old "un-reconstructed." The South has gained all it fought for and much more. It fought to retain slavery, and in the place of the slavery of the days before the war, a new slavery has been instituted, a slavery of "jim crowism," a slavery of segregation; a slavery of race prejudice, and worse than all a slavery of disfranchisement. The South laughs in its sleeve at what it has accomplished along this line, and the North, largely because of commercialism, sits supine and allows the South to bend and break at its own sweet will, every result, supposed to have been brought about by the war, at least so far as the Negro is concerned.

It has been said that the country could not survive "half free and half slave." This may possibly have been true as far as those who intended that the law should be supreme were concerned, but with the control of the government in the hands of the enemies of the black man this saying goes for naught. Besides this, the South, by the suppression of the Negro vote, is enabled to send to the legislative body and the electoral college a larger representation than it is entitled to, and thus every vote in the South is worth from two to three in the North. These are some of the many reasons why the fiftieth anniversary of Appomattox find the South so unanimous is accepting the results growing out of Appomattox and the surrender of General Lee. Lee may have surrendered at Appomattox fifty years ago, but the "Norhern mudsil's surrender has far outweighed the surrender at Appomattox in beneficial results to the South.

COLORED RACE IN UPLIFT FIGHT

Wil MAR 8 1915 JOURNA

Dr. Sinclair and Former Senator Washburn Address Sunday Meeting Here

NEW FRIENDS JOIN MOVEMENT

An audience that taxed the standing capacity of the Odd Fellows Temple, Tenth and Orange streets, attended a mass meeting there yesterday afternoon under the auspices of the Wilmington Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The meeting was held for the purpose of interesting those colored Wilmingtonians who are not yet members of the organization, either national or local.

The two principal speakers of the afternoon were Dr. William Sinclair of the Frederick Douglass Hospital, Philadelphia, and former Senator Washburn of Elkton, Maryland, the noted leader in the Socialist party.

The music for the afternoon was furnished by Wright's Orchestra, Bethel A. M. E. Choir and the soloist, Mrs. Maud White.

The Rev. J. B. St. Felix Isaacs, president of the local branch of the N. A. A. C. P., opened the meeting, after an invocation by Dr. Faust of Ezion Church, by explaining the purposes and aims of the association and the work which the national organization has done.

Dr. Sinclair spoke of the organization and its work in Philadelphia, and its work in the country at large. He admonished solidarity on the part of the colored people, and patriotism of the highest order.

Mr. Washburn applied the lesson of solidarity not to the solidarity of the race, but to the workingman, whose interests, whether he is white or black, are identical. He recapitulated the wrongs of the colored man in an industrial sense, and compared them with the wrongs of the white man, who suffers industrially in much the same way. He drew a startling pen picture of the South before the war, and of the colored men in the south of today, and compared it with the conditions existing in Colorado during the mining troubles.

Mr. Isaacs invited all present who were not already allied with the organidation to pledge themselves as members, and pay, if possible, the entrance fee. A large number of the audience became members of the organization, including former Senator Washburn and a number of visiting Socialists, of whom a generous delegation was present.

In many respects the monster mass meeting was one of the most important which has been held in the city for many years. It was attended by the most thoughtful colored people in the city, and represented an outpouring of the best sentiment among the race.

The officers of the Wilmington branch of the N. A. A. C. P. are: The Rev. J. B. St. F. Isaacs, president; Mrs. E. H Woodlen, vice-president; Dr. George J. Sykes, secretary; the Rev. B. T. Moore, treasurer; executive committee, the Rev. J. A. T. Foust, the Rev. W. H. Hoxter, Mrs. E. F. America; Miss E. B. Kruse, Mrs Alice M. Dunbar, Miss A. C. Baldwin and Mrs. S. A. Lones.

Race Problem – 1915
United States

Gains for the Negro Proved

ANALYSIS of the latest statistics available, soon to be issued formally with an interpretation by the federal government, shows steady rise of the negroes resident in the United States in important aspects of existence and in civic activities. Oftener than before he owns his own home, writes his own name to the deed by which he acquires the property, reads newspapers, books and the Bible, and chooses to be moral and religious. Like his white neighbor he is turning from the country to the city, with all that this trend implies in the way of uplift or the reverse, according as the migrator chooses to live and as environment fashions.

To a greater degree than his white competitor in the labor market he finds employment constant on terms which employer rather than employee dictates. Unorganized as a wage-earner, the negro undergoes both the profit and the loss of that status. For his education state aid and private philanthropy both wax as the years go by, and the result is shown in a steadily lowered rate of illiteracy, in increasing thrift and power as a property owning class, and in rising standards as to home and church.

With less representation in national or state politics than during the last decades of the nineteenth century, and with many, though not all, of the leaders of the race counseling opportunism in stressing civic rights while gains of an economic and cultural sort are being made, the descendants of former slaves continue on a way that is giving them many attainments not conspicuous hitherto in people of their race. Such gains are forcing a revised estimate of the potentialities of Africans by Europeans and their descendants. That, even under such discriminations as exist with varying sectional intensity, the American descendant of African ancestors so seldom chooses to reside elsewhere in the world, and goes to Africa only as teacher or preacher, is evidence of his relative well-being and of his common sense. When he contrasts what he was when Lincoln freed him with what he is now, he patiently renews his climb upward.

Peoria, Ill.
STAR.
APR 2 1915

DEFAMES PEORIA NEGROES.

The Peoria Citizen, a Colored Paper, Defends the Race Against the Attacks of the L. E. L.

In the last issue of the Citizen, published in behalf of the negroes, appears the following defense against the scurrious attacks of the law enforcement league bulletins upon the colored race.

The infamous article that was published in the L. E. L. Lowes organization bulletin No. 68 of last Sunday, March 21, in the Peoria Journal, did its full duty in striving to create race prejudice. The negroes—"especially they that try to live a respectable life, and the industrious ones"—are the most law abiding among American citizens, and even the lawbreakers of our people, are the most submissive of any race or color, in this great cosmopolitan country of ours and that our people of Peoria are not the equal of any other city, stands yet to be disputed. Yet the bulletin of L. E. L. Lowes organization comes out in the most abusive language that we dare say republicans and democrats would not stoop so low as to utter. The L. E. L. Lowes organization after attacking every other proposition, issue and people, that stand for a Greater Peoria make their last strike at the negro, by the following in the L. E. L. Lowes organization bulletin No. 68:

At the Young Men's Social club hall, 201 South Washington street, a disreputable colored dance resort, the mayor and his corporation counsel last Monday night indulged in another species of defense. The citizens' candidate should receive the vote of every colored man or woman who would like to see such places as this Young Men's Social club shut up. It is too vile for description, too vile to be entered by decent whites or decent blacks.

As negroes we are appealing to the best judgment of the fair minded citizens of Peoria. They can be their best judge when we explain the outrageous mistake that the L. E. L. Lowes organization made in its statement of last Sunday's bulletin. Our answer to the lie, abuse and misrepresentation. This L. E. L. Lowes bulletin and the men that are backing his signature, many who are in the different businesses and classes of trade in Peoria, is that the every utterance is a lie. While we admit we represent only a few in the thousands of city vote, yet as meager as we are in producing vice in Peoria. For example, Peoria has only two negro saloons, as against from five to seventeen in cities of much less population. One negro club as against from three to five in other cities, even in Illinois dry territory.

The Young Men's Social club is composed of Peoria's best negroes of every class and trade, commanding every respect from the commercial and business circles of our city.

Among them are:
President—James Finch.
Vice-President—Alex Lomax.
Secretary—Frank Watson.
Board of Directors—B. A. Manning, Charles Baston, H. C. Gibson, J. W. Conver, J. H. Conway, E. Smith, H. C. Gibbons.

The Young Men's Social club is conducted just as the Creve Coeur and Country or any other first class club of the white race in our city, and for the L. E. L. Lowes organization to call it the most vile and disreputable place in the city shows their disposition to make political capital of Peoria's most obedient citizens.

It would be better under the conditions of the L. E. L. Lowes defaming bulletin of last Sunday, that the negroes of Peoria be in the "Pitch Fork Tillman" or Vardaman districts, or back in slavery than free men in great Illinois to be villified by the L. E. L. Lowes organization misrepresentation.

Our people in local affairs as directed by some of the great race leaders like Dr. Washington, Prof. Comnelman, the Hon. Milton Turner and others, are non-partisan, they vote both democratic and republican where they find their friends. Our ideas are to live and do our best for right. What does the L. E. L. Lowes organization seek to do? Do they aim to slander us and degrade us as a people? L. E. L. Lowes (for mayor) organization, do they want to deprive us of our citizenship and all our rights as men and women? Or is it they only aim to gain place and political preferment at our expense? We cheerfully invite the L. E. L. Lowes people and all white or black Peorians, the police and the sheriff's department, yes, even the scums of the earth that they are said to pay, to

estigate and find the vices, and
ls in one of the greatest cities in
nois, at any time or hour in twen-
our, they can come, and if they
l the vile place, the low dance
l and the disreputable joint as pic-
ed in the L. E. L. Lowes bulletin of last Sunday, the officers and more than 300 members stand ready to pay the penalty.

True, there are drinks in our Young Men's Social club, just as there are drinks in clubs of other races for the social pleasure of its membership. Just as it would be in clubs of any city that is fit to live in.

And we are only too glad to be classed as citizens of what we believe is one of the most beautiful and best governed cities in the country, that has the best parks; the best system of street railway. And if some of the L. E. L. Lowes organization who knock the system and our city would only get away to some other city if only for a day and see the service they have in comparison to what we have in Peoria, they would sure loose their hammer before they got back to Peoria.

In regard to our Peoria water. We do not discuss the rate question, but how many times in the remembrance of any citizen have you been requested to boil your water to avoid typhoid fever and other ailments in Peoria? If you are a reader of papers from other cities you will find there is never a summer but what the press has daily notices as to the impure water they use. Peoria is noted the world over for its purity in this respect, and we are proud to live in a city that has the best and better than other cities, and last but not least as we think of their water fight regardless to prices we wish to place that as we do in denouncing the L. E. L. organization defamation of the Young Men's Social club. Every word of the story as a story without foundation.

The negroes of Peoria are proud of the press of their city for had they the disposition of other papers in other cities like Springfield and Danville and Cairo, their agitating of the L. E. L. Lowes bulletin lies might have caused Peoria serious trouble, that we as citizens are confident that the best element and fair minded people would do their utmost to avoid. The negroes are for a Greater bigger and continuous Peoria, that will afford them and other people a fit place to live.

Boston Advertiser
MAR 8 - 1915

NEW ABOLITION MOVEMENT NEEDED

Moorfield Storey Urges at Meeting of Protest Against Legislation Aimed at Negro Race

CONGRESSMAN MADDEN ALSO ONE OF SPEAKERS

Tells Tremont Temple Audience That Democrats in Congress Are as Much Rebel Now as Before War

That the time has come for another abolition movement was the declaration of Moorfield Storey, who presided at the mass meeting of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at Tremont Temple yesterday afternoon.

Congressman Martin B. Madden of Illinois, who was the chief speaker, referring to the Democrats in Congress, said "they are in greater control today than before the war and are just as much rebel in heart today as they were then."

Every seat in the Temple was occupied and several hundred persons stood during the meeting, the specific purpose of which was to protest against legislation in Congress discriminating against colored citizens. Among those on the platform were Samuel W. McCall, Francis J. Garrison, Mrs. Joseph Lee, Miss Mary J. Jackson of Providence, Dr. Samuel A. Brown, Thomas P. Tailor, Mrs. J. Dellinger Barney, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Prince Loud, Samuel Griffin, George G. Bradford, Miss Adeline Moffat, J. Mott Hallowell, E. T. Morris, William H. Dupree, Vincent Y. Bowditch and Dr. Horace B. Bumstead.

Congressman Madden said that of our population of 100,000,000 some 29,000,000 live south of Mason and Dixon's line and that 23,000,000 of these live on cotton plantations. The South, he said, elects 125 representatives to Congress, and referring to the last Congress, said that there were 125 Democrats from the South and 165 from the North. "One would naturally suppose," he remarked, "that 165 would be more than 125, but it isn't so in Congress. The reason is that these men from the South come and stay and when they get through are succeeded by their sons. There was only one chairman of an important committee from north of the line. Every committee except this one was presided over by a son of a Confederate soldier. They are in greater control today than they were before the war and are just as much rebel in heart today as they were then."

He asserted that all that the colored people want is an equal opportunity, and went on to say that there has been considerable effort recently in Washington to pass legis-

iation against colored people. The first thing which came up, he said, was the segregation bill. This came before a committee of which he was a member, and he was able to prevent it from being reported to the house. "Then," he said, "we had a Jim Crow law under consideration, offered by Tom Heflin, who was in favor of blowing up the White House because Roosevelt invited Booker Washington to dinner."

He said that it is the duty of the white people to help negroes to help themselves and expressed his belief that every door of opportunity in industrial life should be open to them. He said that this country is not one of manhood suffrage so far as the South is concerned, but expressed the belief that the time is coming when manhood suffrage will prevail everywhere under the American flag.

"You ought to insist," said he, "upon every right guaranteed you by the Constitution. The last two or three years there has been a tendency among my race to recognize the justice of your claims. I believe the day is not far distant when you may look for a rehabilitation of conditions which formerly prevailed."

Mrs. Mary E. Wilson of Boston and Dr. J. E. Spingarn, chairman of the board of directors of the national association, both made eloquent addresses, during which they spoke of the aims, hopes and plans of the national association and the Boston branch.

Resolutions which will be sent to the President and every member of the incoming Congress were unanimously passed. Segregation and Jim Crow legislation and the proposed anti-marriage law were all condemned.

Almon J. Fairbanks gave an organ recital previous to the meeting and Mrs. Mattie A. McAdoo sang several times, the audience standing and joining in the chorus of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

MAKING AN AMERICAN CITY

By A. L. Hayes, Lyndhurst, N. J.

It seems to me that the making of an American city can not really be complete and founded upon the true American principle and in accord with the upward march of a standard Christian civilization—such as is claimed in America—wher the makers of the city ostracize the colored man. A city or community should well feel proud of a people who through sheer hardships and ignorance permitted themselves to be bound and brought to the shores of this great country like cattle or swine. The people should thank God that they have a civilization that permitted an end to that dreaded evil of all mankind—slavery. And, I dare say, that if the proper thought was instilled into the minds of both races neither would feel that there ever was or will be any dangers of perpetual harmony and yet race distinction in which I firmly believe.

Some lose sight of the fact that my people have given somewhere near three hundred years at hewing wood and drawing water with the remuneration that goes to a Georgia chain gang. They have been forced to submit themselves to every evil that goes to degrade mind and body and might say manhood. The civilization that we know does not permit a whole people to within fifty years master every essential part that make a man of thought only of the average.

When I look back over the many hard struggles the United States has had and passed through the victor not one have I seen since 1619 that the colored race has not stood by the flag. He has stood as target—man by man—for the bayonets in Colonial Days, the shots and shells in more recent years, and for a united country and one flag; and today these people stand as targets for the sneers that are heaped on them by a generation that have had everything that was good of these people hidden from them. In the days of the Revolution some histories speak vaguely of the first blood to be spilled for the Colonies as that of a man of color by the name of Christopher Attucks on Boston Commons. I viewed the spot in 1908 with others and for no other reason than to see that spot marked by a cobble-stone.

The President of the United States in his address in New York City in 1914, while paying tribute to the young dead American sailors arriving from Mexico, said sneers had a more telling effect upon the human heart than the implements of war. Is there any wonder that a man of my race should not speak with feeling or from an aching heart when on every side the door of hope is closed in his face; he is not wanted in certain towns, streets, sections, and very few places of employment are open to him. Can it be proved as a fact that these people have shown any other than progress in an upward direction since they have been placed in position to see what real civilization means? Leaving out the sections where schemers have forced in the undesirable I can not seem to be able to find any truth in the deteriorating effect my people have brought about through that class of them who have chosen the path of upward progress laid down by the American white people in the acquiring of property. When permitted the people of my race are always eager to learn those higher things that lead to right living and higher standards of their race and the religion that they have learned to put faith in.

May we expect that the proper standard of civilization and the underlying principles that Christ based His teachings, instilled in the present and future generations, where facts are either ignored by historians or where their oversight permits the wrong trend of thought in relation to the colored race, and only the worse is the best said of them? The children of both races should be given opportunity to know just what part each race of people has played in American history without prejudice, and surely the colored race would have a place along with the rest. Every school child should know that these people have given their life's blood for the same Stars and Stripes that wave over the Capitol Building in Washington, the same flag that shrouds the tomb of General George Washington at Mount Vernon, the immortal Lincoln at Springfield, General U. S. Grant on Riverside Drive in New York City, and the same flag that not only waves over every American home, but the flag that the whole civilized universe recognizes.

Many a Decoration Day I have listened with tears to the ceremonies, exercises and fitting addresses for the heroes of these occasions, and I must tell you that my heart was bleeding, so impressive were the memories brought to bear on my imagination; many is the time I have wanted to rest among those who have so given their lives. The lives that are familiar to every student of American history had a more deeper meaning than that laid down for the colored youth to learn. These children have to learn nothing that makes them look back with pride upon their forefathers and mothers. The histories do not place any stress upon these people and their part taken only in a very small way. I can not conceive of anything more necessary in the welding of a common cause in the minds of both peoples than permitting the entire school population to share in a common understanding of some of the good the black Americans have done for this and other countries.

Seldom have I heard the name of any man of my race mentioned at any Decoration Day exercises except in an occasional way. Seldom have I heard a word of praise of these people to a mixed American audience that had the ring and force that brings one to a point of real mindful recollections of dead heroes. When referred to in a complimentary manner one with the slightest sense of human nature can readily feel the slight chill that passes over the audience and many a time in a silent voice we hear, "if he were not a Negro," his chances would be so and so. I wonder why? To my mind it seems that there should not be any doubt in the minds of an enlightened people that our Lord was not concerned in the color of the fleece of the lamb when its blood was to be a token of some very important event in the Christian religion that we profess.

I am told that more than one hundred thousand people of my race have given their lives for this country's cause and it seems a matter of impossibility that none have been heroes worthy of a place in the histories of the United States. It seems inconceivable that all of these men were shot in the back. I can not help but believe that many a dying soldier or sailor was given his last drink of water by some black Gunga Din. I can not conceive of any act more brave and worthy of mention than the strategy used by one Robert Smalls in Charleston Harbor during the Civil War, and yet I doubt very much if his remains rest in a marked grave. The colored children are forced to study the things that make their lives feel burdensome. They have nothing placed before them relative to their race for which they may well feel proud and strive to equal if not exceed. They are forced to read the hand writing on the wall of some disguised by the American historians, and only those things are set up that makes Afro-American lives blank.

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO RACE.

In a bulletin prepared by the bureau of the census, which shows the standing of the negro race in this country at the time of the last census, five facts stand out to the credit of the negroes, and to the country at large. The report shows an increasing tendency among negroes toward home ownership, a marked increase in the pecentage of schools, a decided decrease in the percentage of illiteracy, a decrease in the mortality rate, and an increase in the proportion of church membership. Another feature in connection with the report worthy of special notice is that all the work on it, including the preparation of the statistical tables, as well as the clerical work, was done by negro employes of the department.

In 1790 the negro population of the United States was 757,208, which at that time was 19.3 per cent of the total population of the country. In 1910 the negro population was 9,827,763, or 10.7 per cent. of the total population. It should be remembered in this connection, however, that since 1810 there has been practically no negro immigration into this country, while the white population has been constantly augmented by the inflow of immigrants from Europe. The report shows that 99.2 per cent of all negroes in the United States in 1910 were natives of native parentage, while the remainder were of foreign or mixed foreign and native parentage. Thus it would appear that the race is in no danger from dying by the slow process of race suicide.

For several years associations interested in the advancement of the negro race have urged on southern negroes the advantage of owning their homes. The negro is naturally home loving. He is not by nature inclined to rove from the place where he has attained maturity, yet it was found that the number of negroes who owned their homes was small. This movement seems to have met with the approval of the negroes, especially in the southern states. In 1910 there were in these states 1,917,391 negro homes, of which 430,499 or 22.4 per cent., were owned by negroes. In Virginia the percentage rises to 41.3, but the negroes farther south appear to be slower to adopt the home-buying plan, for in Georgia the percentage drops to 14.7. The total increase, however, is substantial, and this is a hopeful sign which should give encouragement to all interested in the progress of the race.

JEWS AND GENTILES TO FIGHT DISCRIMINATION

New York, January 7.—Aroused by the prejudice which Hebrews suffer in European countries, leading leaders, with the cooperation of Gentiles, have launched a movement looking toward demanding worldwide emancipation of the Jews from unjust discriminations. The demand will be made after the cessation of the present European war.

The declaration made by those interested in the movement follows, in part:

"It is felt that the present war is demonstrating more than anything a demand for the same civic privileges and human rights accorded to his Christian neighbor. At no time during the nearly two thousand years of Israel's exile has there been such critical need and such promising opportunity for solution of the Jewish political problem as there will be under the changed political situation and the altered attitude being engendered by the present European war."

Race Problem - 1915
United States

A WAR WITH PENS.

A WARM FIGHT is being waged by two newspapers in Nashville, Tenn.—a case of the pen being mightier than the sword. As might be expected, WE are in on the deal. The Tennessean and American accuse the Banner of owning or dictating the policy of the Nashville News, one of our race's papers. The editor of the banner says: "The malice and evil purpose of the statement is entirely evident, but too absurd to have the desired effect. The News, though owned and edited by Negroes, has the appearance of being an entirely respectable paper, which places it as a public journal in a class above these unprincipled organs. These papers revel in slander and take to downright lying with the aptitude that a skunk follows its natural "bent." The trouble started when the Banner took to task the Tennessean and American for being instrumental in having a large number of our laborers discharged from working on an important public improvement that was being carried on by the Lewisburg and Northern Railroad Company. The News came in for their share when they copied the Banner's article. The incident is only of importance because it clearly shows how quickly real issues are lost sight of in the South when the color question, even by the merest chance, slips in. When once interjected, all else is forgotten and they can sail in with sleeves rolled up and write from the bitterness of their heart till Judgment Day. We must be a great people to always be the center of attraction.

SAVING ISAIAH T. MONTGOMERY.

Score one for the white people. One of our exchanges has this in a recent issue:

"The Planters' Bank of Clarksdale, Miss., is acting as trustee and registrar for the bond subscription for the purpose of paying the encumbrances on the property of Isaiah T. Montgomery and his wife at Mound Bayou. This fund has been started by the white people of Mississippi and is in itself a deep appreciation of the distinguished and useful career of Mr. Montgomery."

The Planters' Bank is pushing its subscription scheme and has issued a circular letter, of which the following is a part:

"As a testimonial of appreciation of the services rendered the South and Nation, by Isaiah T. Montgomery, through which both the white and Negro races have been benefited; and in order to assist Montgomery and his wife to pay off the encumbrances (approximately $28,000) on their property, consisting of 786 acres of farm land and 50 town lots, including saw mill and gin, valued at $77,000 at Mound Bayou, Mississippi, I hereby subscribe," and so forth.

Well, guess we have to give it to the white folks. This is the kind of help that indicates where some of them stand on the race question. Isaiah T. Montgomery is a lovable old colored gentleman, one who has always tried to play his part well as a race man. He conceived the town of Mound Bayou, Miss., carving it out of the wilderness; it fairly thrived, but not as it should have done. The white people of Mississippi know of his movements, every moment of them up until the present time. He has been so honorable all along that they will not permit him to be crushed by the weight of misfortune. They will not have it that evil days have come on him in his old age. Had Mr. Montgomery been surrounded by men of his manner of thinking and acting Mound Bayou would have been blossoming as a rose. As it was he was surrounded by an impatient set who wished to flourish in a day. They had no thought of the prosey life of pioneering which means deprivation, self-denial, ceaseless toil and almost painful frugality.

We are much pleased to know that the grand old man will have his broad acres spared to him—that he will be rescued from the wreck of the new "Deserted Village." Mr. Montgomery is known in Indianapolis. He has been a visitor to this office. He is one of the old school, quiet, unobtrusive, ultra respectable, and carefully considers the relationship of the races. He appreciates the white people, respects them for what they have done and are doing for the race. Without their assistance there would have been no Mound Bayou, in the beginning. Now at what seems to be its conclusion, they are still with him. Such love will offset a lot of other things that we charge up to the white people. To care for this grand old character is a feather in their cap. And as Eva Tanguay says to her audiences who so thoroughly appreciate her, "God bless you! God bless you."

"GOOD FOR THE SOUL."

Under the caption, "Good For the Soul," the New York Call prints an editorial which presents a phase of "hope-inspiring" life in the future which, we must admit, lacks the quality of inspiration so far as the people of the South are concerned. What was "good for the soul" of the writer was the spectacle of a pretty young white girl and an "uncomely" negress standing with "arms lovingly intertwined and their hands tightly clasped." But the full realization of the beauty of this inspiring picture cannot be had without the detailed description which, in the language of the writer in the Call, runneth thus:

"It was near the close of the noon hour and the pupils of one of our biggest public schools clustered about the gates waiting for the fatal moment when it would become imperative for them to leave the joyous freedom of the street and hurry back to their cabined and confined life of the classroom. As we approached the surging, shouting, gesticulating mass of youth we were struck by a sight which made us stop and gaze our fill before going on again.

"Leaning against the steps of the school were two young girls of about fifteen years of age. Their arms were lovingly intertwined and their hands tightly clasped One of them was a lovely creature with the fairest skin, big blue eyes and blond curls caught back with a big pink bow that matched her tasty pink dress. The other was a negress, black and uncomely as can be imagined, with her kinkly hair brushed into an orderly pig-tail, and her costume a cheap white shirt waist and rusty black skirt. There they stood with that air of ecstatic intimacy that marks the friendships of girls in their teens, the white hand clasping the black, the blond curls blowing tenderly against the despised 'wool.'

"A painter should have immortalized them as they stood there and called them "America"—the America of our dreams. For they were a symbol of all America could be and some day will be—a real democracy that knows not race nor color nor creed nor class. Already they sit together, the black girl and the white, in that great institution of democracy, the free school, that first, faint promise of all the State will one day do, collectively, for its own.

"It was a sight good for the soul in these troublous days, infinitely suggestive and hope inspiring. It was an earnest of the Human Sisterhood that is to be."

With hysterical sentimentalists writing in this fashion, of what avail are the words of Booker Washington, the Mentor of the black race, who only a few days ago said to an audience of negroes in New York that the chief drawback to the colored man in the United States is that he "doesn't want to be black and can't be white." He proceeded further to admonish the negro to stick to his race and not try to "ape white folks."

"If one of your race opens a store," Washington told them, "patronize him, bring others to him and help him push his business."

There is sound sense in that argument, but we can only pity the misguided humanitarians (?) who see in the intimacy of the black and the white girl the augury of a beautiful "human sisterhood" to be. Booker Washington's theory of the ultimate salvation of the negro is hard work and the faculty of keeping out of the white man's territory. The blacks may achieve a great deal if they pursue the course mapped out for them by the Tuskegee educator, but if they listen to the siren songs of writers who prate of the "ecstatic intimacy" of the white girl and the negro they will fall short of their goal, at least so far as the South is concerned with their case.

GETTING THE RIGHT RELATION.

A colored girl of Brainard, Minn. who had been forced to sit apart from the white members while attending religious services in a church of that city, carried the case to court. The judge in his ruling said:

"No legislative body ever has specifically included churches or religious societies in the so-called civil rights act. For courts to undertake to dictate how they shall conduct their affairs would meet with just resentment and would be of doubtful legality on constitutional grounds."

The reflection here is not on the judge but on the religious body. Churches are voluntary institutions in a most special sense, just as social societies may be said to be. There is no such thing as lawfully compelling them to do what they do not wish to do. We can see no reason why the judge should have doubts concerning the legality of a ruling that would force a church or any purely social voluntary organization to do what they did not care to do.

If the courts could safeguard us in our rights in common, many of which are now denied, it would be the entering wedge to all other places. Really, we have no right to expect more of church and similar organizations than we do of other concerns. It would be hypocrisy if we were extended the glad hand at the church door in the name of religion, if in all other phases of life we are subjected to the stony stare. The church exhibits more virtue in being honest than in being deceptive, even if it is not in the receptive mood concerning our race.

The reflection is not on that particular body; it is not different to many other religious bodies. And as we see it, the less we have to say about such matters the better it will be for us. White church members know very well what is thought of religious bodies, as it concerns their duties to the world. They know all about the "come filthy" theory, but as they do not find themselves in that receptive attitude—in their hearts—they would be grossly wrong to merely assume that attitude. This from the viewpoint of religion.

As it concerns the citizenship, hypocrisy answers here as it does elsewhere. And we need not think we are the only ones on whom the thing is practiced; it is all through life. Only the rare individual gets carte blanche at every turn. The mother-in-law is an example of a persona non grata, not to speak of every other person at some angle of their lives. Many persons show us, the colored people, that we are not expected.

According to some authority, the deed is not more in the commission than in the heart. This again, from the viewpoint of the religious, is very serious thought. From the viewpoint of citizenship we are not concerned with what the heart has to say provided it does not rule the action.

The great Tolstoi opens up his "Kreutzer Sonata" after this manner: He that hath adultery in his heart hath committed adultery already. Perhaps Solomon said the same thing in a different way. It is a very serious thought; not because of the particular case, but because of all sinful thoughts. If one covets he has stolen, according to the preachment. If he wishes one dead he has committed murder. And if the church accepts one openly and shuts him out in heart it is not in compliance with the notions of religion—at least Christianity—the individual has been shut out.

But, as we said before, the religious question is a good one to let alone. Religion is not going to change the people's social views whatever we may wish or think. There are denominations of religion that are more democratic than others, at least in the outer aspect, but we dare say that the "members" of any religion will not view the whole world as a social community on account of their religion. It has not proven so efficacious

as that, and perhaps it was not thus intended, in spite of what we think of the democracy of Jesus Christ. Not that we arraign it, but that it may not have been meant to be as we think the letter readeth. If He were here today what would He advise?

GETTING THE RIGHT VIEW.

It is all right for us, our race as well as others, to have stand-out views on the great public questions that come before us from time to time. There are some questions on which we can, almost at once, practically agree as a race. There are other questions that necessarily must be threshed out if we wish to arrive at the best understanding or judgment. Take the "Birth of a Nation" picture business for instance. There is no doubt but what it is having an unwholesome influence on our people and also on the great nation in that the production contributes to national unrest.

We all agree that the production, if not studiously designed to increase race friction between the white and the colored people, does the work just the same. Many of us think the pictures were designed with aforethought to a given end, and not that they happened to be mean and provocative of ill feeling. All do not agree to this because there is such a thing as charity in the world, the essence of which is summed up in the words "giving one the benefit of the doubt.'

Some of us are unwilling to believe any man, or set of men, would make it his, or their mission to deliberately plan to undo a whole race or impede its progress because of some offense committed by one, or even many. This means that the pictures may have not been the result of a studious attempt to belittle the race. There is doubt; but can the benefit be given in the instance? Have the producers of the pictures, provided they had no method in it, discovered that they are adding to the present race friction by reproducing past deplorable conditions of the race and incidental happenings which are nothing like the rule?

It may be that the picture producers see nothing mean in their production—simply catering to the curiosity of the people, coining it into dollars. Perhaps they hold that, as long as they do not slander, presenting a true condition, whether of past or present, or of good or evil repute, they are within their rights. They may hold that so long as there are no immediate bad effects—no immediate outbreaks—they are "within the law." All of these propositions are debatable. There is no room for debating the question of the quiet hurtful influence of such exhibitions.

It is considered presumptuous to pose as the court of last resort when discussing public questions. The inflexible, cocksure man is not admired even when in the right. The tendency to give the opinions of others a hearing regardless of what we think is the ethics of debate. Yet there must be such a thing as final judgment, even in the affairs of men outside of the court rooms. The consensus of the best thought must be the greater determining force in fashioning right public views.

The best thought is not intuition, or innate consciousness, but the result of deductions of premises, which lead up naturally to the thing sought. At first blush, without the knowledge of the recent Haitian insurrections and revolutions, we see the little island, which is as independent as our own country, imposed on by our great big, overbearing government. The feeling is about the same as the average individual takes on when he sees a very large, brute-looking individual pommeling a person very much less in size. We know nothing of what led up to the quarrel. We see the fight only.

Haiti is a mite of a country. The United States is a great big power. There is no thought of a contest that could be in any way equal. The sympathy springing from the animal in us is cast with Haiti. But on investigation, when reason appears at the bar, we uncover and bow ourselves out of court.

Evidence is coming from the island which endeavors to show how the Haitians have been mistreated since our soldiers have taken possession. Some of these charges are headlined in our papers as if Haiti were all virtue and our own country were all vice, when really it is nearly the other way. What Haiti has done is an open book. Not one time, alone, has it done the extraordinary thing of turning L'Ouverture's swords against one another, but many times, and within a few years. For years none of the presidents have died in bed. The country had become unstable, offering no security to friend or foe. Yet we find some among us who count all of this as nothing when compared to the forceful seizure of the country because it is labeled an independent republic.

In a manner Haiti stood for us—the Negroes of the United States. It was the brightest example of a real Negro government. It was a supposed demonstration of what we would all be if left alone to direct our own affairs. Was it a libel or the truth? It does not matter. It was the representative of our best possibilities at self-government. Are we proud of its record?

We cannot see where there is a chance to fall out with the administration at Washington for blotting out the iniquitous procedure of the island. It was clearly up to some country to put a quietus on the mutinous citizens who not only jeopardize their own existence as a free and independent people, but threatened to entangle the western hemisphere. Thus for three good and sufficient reasons Haiti had to be censured.

We cannot see where there is room for an honest difference of opinion by those who have some knowledge of what is going on, and of the recent past. The final outcome of the interference, only, is to be feared. The present help is no less than a god-send. Will we return Haiti to the Haitians free and independent as it was when we stepped in? is the question.

Phila.

May 1915

SOUTH AIDING NEGRO; GAINS BY EDUCATION

Finds Trained Hands Profitable on Plantations, and Encourages Schools

By a Staff Correspondent

ATLANTA, May 3.—Nothing exemplifies in greater degree the remarkable transformation the South is undergoing than the passing of the negro as an issue in Southern politics. Where 10 years ago there was hardly a political campaign which did not have at least one phase of the negro question as a "burning" issue, there is at present not the slightest suggestion of raising the issue in any Southern State, with the possible exception of Florida, where there is pending a bill reviving the old "grandfather clause" as a qualification for voting.

It may be said that the negro plays only a neglible part in politics other than national. Although the same has been true for many years, it did not keep politicians from riding into office on the strength of racial prejudice.

The last of the Southern Governors who made the negro question an issue on which to gather votes was Cole Blease, of South Carolina, and the North did not apply invectives against him half as bitter as those with which he was riddled by Southern editors and men of public life. Southern people have come to the realization that "race equality" was not so imminent a menace as it was desirable as a vote catcher.

The change has come about as the result of economic exigencies. Southerners now want trained house servants. They, therefore, encourage in every way the schools which teach domestic science to negroes. They want their farms to yield the ultimate possible results. They, therefore, help with their influence and their money those schools which teach the negroes scientific agriculture. They see that where before their land yielded one bale of cotton to the plow, now frequently they can get three bales. This would not be possible if the negroes had not learned the utility of proper fertilization.

Booker T. Washington, head of Tuskegee Institute, and pioneer in the work of giving the Southern negro industrial training, is a welcome speaker throughout the South, and is nearly always heard by an audience composed partly of white people in the best standing in their communities.

It seemed for a while as if, with the passing of the negro question, there would come another issue, on which politicians might split each of the Southern States in twain. That was the prohibition question. The whisky issue seems to have settled itself in a very few years comparatively, with the wets hopelessly defeated.

The Farmers' Alliance is gone, and the nation hears very little of the Populist party and its fiery leader, Tom Watson, who just now is devoting his literary talents to a fight on the Roman Catholic Church.

There is even quiet in Tennessee, where Carmack, the prohibition leader, was assassinated. Carmack's State is in the prohibition column, and Carmack's bitterest foe, ex-Governor M. R. Patterson, is touring the South for the Anti-Saloon League of America.

Another member of the Anti-Saloon League's flying squadron is ex-Governor Glenn, of North Carolina, who came into office when the anti-railroad propaganda was at its height in the South. He was one of the triumvirate of "reform" Governors who made their principal plank railroad regulation. Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia, is the only one still in public life. The third, B. B. Comer, of Alabama, was recently defeated for Governor.

The political war forces are still alive—all except Carmack and Goebel. Vardaman has lost none of his vigor; Patterson is active, but in an opposite cause; Comer has not taken his hat out of the ring; Blease still has a following; Hoke Smith and Tom Watson, once the closest of friends, now the bitterest of enemies, could, if called upon, make the welkin ring as of old. Marse Henry Watterson is ever ready for a fight or a frolic.

The change is not so much in the politicians, as in the South. Dixie wants better schools and more of them, equalization of taxes, improved roads, fair elections—and these are the shibboleths of the wise and successful candidates in the South today.

J. D. G.

Quincy Ill

COLORED PEOPLE MAY CHANGE PLAN

Loyal Legion So to Be Arranged as to Meet Needs of All Members of Race In Quincy.

If present plans of Z. W. Mitchell and associates are carried out, Quincy will figure as the center of an important movement working toward a final solution of the American race problem.

Some time ago it was announced by the head of the Loyal Legion Co-Operative Educational system that a tri-state board of that system would be organized by the selection of prominent men from Hannibal, Keokuk and Quincy, through which the work of organizing in every city within these three states would be vigorously pushed with a view to having a national system worked out and ready to be submitted at a co-operative educational congress to be held at Springfield, Ill., in 1918, at the time of the Illinois centennial celebration to be held in that city.

The scope of organizing will be much larger than was first contemplated and in order that the local work in Quincy may prosper and not be neglected by reason of the general work, Mr. Mitchell is arranging to turn over the entire work of the local system to Quincy citizens. It is expected that a local board of prominent colored men will be organized to take over the property at Fifth and Cherry strets and assume the full management of affairs for this city.

A mass meeting of colored citizens has been called for tomorrow evening at the Legion hall by Messrs. Munday, Roberts, Fields, Tutt, Noil and Harris. Mr. Mitchell states that before severing his connection with the local work that he will assist in the work of securing funds with which to meet all obligations of the work here and leave the local institution in splendid financial condition.

Mr. Mitchell expresses the desire that the local work and building will be made to serve the needs of the entire race in Quincy and that if it should be found expedient in order to meet the requirement of other societies that might not wish to surrender any of their own individuality, or plan any program of work, that the name of the local branch be so changed or amended as to make the co-operation of all societies and persons possible.

ASSAULTED BY WHITES FOR NOT GIVING UP SEAT

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

The New York Age
Dec 2 15

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Feb. 2.—J. R. Stewart, proprietor of the Goodrum at 2101 North Third street, was brutally assaulted by two white men, the Simpson brothers, on a street car. Stewart was seated, and when the Simpsons could not get any other seat they ordered him to get up and he refused.

The Simpsons were arrested and the police court judge, Brady, after being assured by the newspaper reporters that he would not be criticised if he decided justly, fined the men $5 each, but suspended payment during good behavior. Kansas City Negroes think Judge Brady would be a much better judge in the homeless cat and dog department than in the police court.

Race Problem – 1915
United States

Chicago in the Jungles of Prejudice

"The Bogy-men Will Get You If You Don't Look Out"

SHOULD AMERICA GO TO WAR

The colored citizens of this nation are neutral beyond all others in their word and deed between the contending countries in the great and ghastly world war. They do not choose between England, that persecutes her millions of South African blacks, that enslaves hundreds of thousands of African kaffirs in her unspeakable labor compounds, that permits her colonies, like Australia, to prohibit African immigration; they do not choose between Belgium that has made a howling wilderness of the Congo and exterminated the Congoese, on the one hand and the spiked helmet German on the other, who rules his African millions with an iron despotic hand. France, because of her equal treatment of black men, alone commends the admiration and allegiance of black men. But France fights hand in hand with the black man's enemies, to whom he owes no allegiance.

Every nation, whether it be England, Germany or America owes primarily to each of its citizens equal protection in the enjoyment of his unalienable rights to life, liberty and property: every nation owes to each of its citizens equal opportunity, not only to work, but to rise and stand as high as he can build. That obligation is absolute upon the part of the nation. In return for his equal rights and his equal opportunity every citizen owes to his country the services of his life and labor in times of peace and in times of war. That duty is absolute upon the part of the citizen. When the nation fails to fulfill its duty to the citizen, the citizen owes neither his life nor his labor to his nation.

Germany, besieged and cornered with her back up against the wall, is fighting with the brutal madness and bloody desperation of the man who is fighting for his very life. England is seeking to starve out Germany—by her paper blockade—by taking the lives of the women and children and non-combatants of the country of the Kaiser to force him to his knees. Germany retaliates by a wanton and inhuman submarine warfare to bring England to terms. One hundred white Americans—whose loss we too mourn, especially in such cases as that of Lindon Bates, Jr.—specifically warned and wise as to the danger of English waters, risk their lives and lose them through a German submarine, in the English war zone, in an English vessel carrying a cargo of contraband munitions and reservists to England. American patriots and jingoes now urge America to fight Germany. In such an unlikely event, what should the black American do. Within the last four weeks more than one hundred black men have sailed from this port for England. Suppose these had been the one hundred Americans who had lost their lives in an English vessel within the war zone. Would these same Americans have been clamoring now for a war against Germany? Germany at the outset proclaimed this a white man's war. Woodrow Wilson, his Negro-hating Southern Cabinet and his Negro-hating Southern Congress, consider and are trying might and main to make this a white man's country. Should colored men urge or go to death in such a white man's war? Colored men are denied in times

of peace, first by the States the right to join the militia and by the nation to enter its military and naval academies. Should colored men go untrained to war? Colored citizens are being increasingly denied by a Jim Crowing administration and prejudiced people equal rights and equal opportunity. Should the black American lay down his life for such a nation and such a government. As to what President Wilson and his Congress shall declare as to war, we are not here concerned. What international law decrees as to the duty of this nation we do not give an opinion. Our only question is WHAT is THE DUTY of the BLACK MAN SHOULD AMERICA GO TO WAR WITH GERMANY?

IS NEMESIS OF THE WHITE MAN

Repression of Negro Is a Danger to Whites Themselves Prof. Brough Says

EQUALITY ECONOMIC?

Prominent Southern Educator Expresses Advanced Views on the Race Question and Pleads with White Man for the Negro

WHITES LOWER STANDARD

Cowardly Terrorizing and Repression of Negro Reacts upon Civilization of White Race—Says Admit Negro to Inspiration of White's Social Heritage.

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 23.—Dr. Chas. Hillman Brough, professor of economics and sociology in the University of Arkansas, and chairman of the University Commission on the Southern Race Question, says that the "closing of the door of equality of opportunity to the Negro and his persistent intellectual and moral pauperization must in the end react upon the civilization of the white."

Dr. Brough's high standing among Southern educators gives his views a peculiar interest. They are contained in his annual report to the University Commission, composed of eleven men drawn from the faculties of the leading universities and colleges of the South.

Declaring that there are no points of social contact whatever where the two races meet and exchange ideas, Dr. Brough says further:

"In my humble opinion it is better to admit the Negro to all the stimulus and the inspiration of the white's social heritage, so far as it applies to economic equality of opportunity than to encourage an ignorant and debased citizenship by his neglect and repression. It is, of course, plain that every murder, or lynching bee, or cowardly terrorizing of a weaker race sets in motion subtle educational forces which react upon both groups.

Negro Becomes Nemesis of Whites.

"In a far deeper and more tragic sense, however, does the repressed and isolated Negro become the Nemesis of the white. For by being a winning partner in a process of repression the white voluntarily surrounds himself with a group of lower economic efficiency, less exacting moral standards, unsanitary homes, and an outlook on human life devoid of the stimulus of hope and the goad of ambition. Lower the tone of the environment, and it becomes an easy matter to take a 'moral holiday,' without any 'moral insurance.'

"Criminal statistics for the Negro are not very reassuring. It is interesting, however, to find that the Negro has a relatively lower percentage of crime than the immigrant races which are now coming to the United States. The commitments to prison in 1902 per 1,000 of certain nationalities were: Mexicans, 4.7; Italians, 4.4; Austrians, 3.6; French, 3.4; Canadians, 3; Russians, 2.8; Poles, 2.7; Negroes, 2.7."

Dr. Brough touches upon the influence of the Negro minister and says that his "education and moral training are of vital importance in any plan looking to the betterment of the Negroes."

He makes a strong presentation of the question of health improvement, declaring that there is no iron law of mortality, but that length of life increases wherever sanitary science and preventive medicines are applied, and that a sufficient amount of pure air, pure food and pure water would add at least ten years to the average Negro life, which is now about 35 years. He cites figures which show that sickness among Negroes entails a loss from labor of $45,000,000 annually, to which must be added the cost of sickness, which amounts to $75,000,000. Funeral expenses of about $15,000,000 give a total expenditure for sickness and death of $135,000,000 yearly for the Negro population of the South. He declares also that 45 per cent. of the 600,000 deaths yearly among Negroes is preventable by better sanitation and preventive medicine.

"Practically the only cloud on the horizon of race adjustment," says Dr. Brough, "is the problem of segregation. But time, wisdom and patience will solve this question. The idea of farm segregation, as proposed by Clarence Poe, editor of *The Progressive Farmer*, as a means of giving the white man a better chance in agricultural and industrial competition with the Negro, seems a travesty upon Anglo-Saxon superiority and an injustice to the Negro."

Governor Craig of North Carolina

When Governor Craig of North Carolina goes out of office he will undoubtedly carry with him the good will of the entire Negro population of that State. In exercising the function of governor of all the people he has not neglected his colored constituents. He has had no words of discouragement for them, none of rebuke nor disparagement. Toward their institutions he has shown a sympathetic interest. In their general welfare he has shown deep concern. Every year since the beginning of his administration he has had a message of hope for the colored people of the State, which he has delivered at their annual State Fair at Raleigh. This year the Governor's address was as usual optimistic. "I am proud of North Carolina as the home of the best colored people on the face of the earth," he declared. And complimenting the race upon the progress it has made he added, "And I now say that you have made more progress and improvement in thirty-five years than any other race in the world ever has made under similar conditions." Governor Craig said that he had heard of the man who could raise two bales of cotton on one acre of ground. But he had just seen at the fair the man who had done it. He was a Negro farmer And he told his hearers that such a man was a useful citizen. "He is a philanthropist, he is a progressive man."

His message to the farmers was timely "In the face of twelve cent cotton the people of North Carolina, white and black are going to plant cotton next year. They are going to plant cotton in spite of everything any one can do. But before you make arrangements to produce a big crop of cotton, you make arrangements for your meat and bread. If you will do this the storm may come, the winds of adversity may blow, rains may descend and beat upon the houses of some, but they will not beat upon your house for it is founded upon meat and bread."

He told them that there were seventy thousand Negro children in the State who were not attending any school. "And I want to tell you," he said, "that all this cotton, all this corn, all this wheat, is nothing unless it gives to your children a better chance in this world."

Then he touched upon the racial relations. "Where there are good Negroes there are good white people; where there are good white people there are good Negroes. This is the way it goes. We together must defend this State, and we together must build it up." His parting admonition to the colored people of the State was to stay on the farm.

The Negroes of North Carolina are fortunate in having a friend in the State House at Raleigh. A Governor who is not so bound by political formalisms and petty prejudices that he cannot come to them when his presence is desired and to whom they cannot go when they have a cause to do so.

When Governor Mann was chief executive of Virginia he exhibited towards the colored citizens of this state the same feeling of interest in their welfare as has been shown by Governor Craig of North Carolina. And by coming in contact with Negro citizens in his official capacity, Governor Mann acquired a knowledge of how the Negro is thinking and acting and formed impressions that have led him into active participation in many movements for the moral, educational and material advancement of the race.

Negro Speaker Called to Court.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—I carry in my notebook the Globe editorial of March 6 on "Street Meetings" and that of March 23 last year on "Two Kinds of Anarchists." I revert to them here because certain policemen in New York seem to think that you and I and the late Mayor Gaynor are all wrong on this issue of street meetings. And, seemingly, there are some Americans who think that the rights of speakers depend on whether those speakers agree with their views.

I think that I can claim to be the only Negro outdoor speaker of prominence in New York. I suppose judge that the police officials, at least know me well. My usual share of persecution has come to me, it is true, but the latest instance is something new. An agent of the corporation counsel's office named Davis has come to my house and served me with a summons to appear at the Second District Municipal Court on Thursday, May 6. The only intimation I have as to the nature of my alleged offense is the legend, "S. W. cor. Madison avenue and Twenty-fourth street," written in the space opposite the printed word, "Violation." Since I speak at that place every Wednesday noon, I judge that it must have something to do with my speaking, and, since no other speaker has been served with such a summons, "It gives one furiously to think," as the French say.

Certainly no policeman or cititzen has ever said to me that any statute was being violated by my speaking there. I generally deliver a lecture on some educational subject, at the close of which I sell books dealing with the subject of the lecture and, sometimes, the committee which attends me from the People's Educational Alliance takes up a collection. This latter feature of outdoor meetings has been declared perfectly proper by judge after judge, the latest judicial determination being that of Judge Murphy, on Thursday, who told the policeman that arrested Mr. Weitz to tell his superiors to leave those meetings alone in the future. It could hardly be that feature, then.

As a general thing, I have observed that whereas the man in uniform is a fairly good citizen, certain of his superiors have egged him on to harry the meetings of such speakers as refuse to talk the popular slush, but insist on addressing themselves to the intelligence, rather than to the prejudices, of their fellow citizens. In the last two years I have lectured to outdoor audiences on history, theology, anthropology, economics, and literature.

I have found that large numbers of people have taken an intelligent interest in my handling of these themes—all the more so as I have never tried to thrust my own conclusions down their throats, nor failed in courtesy to any courteous questioner. I suspect, though, that mossbacks and reactionaries find my type of thinking somewhat unique—and disconcerting.

The brief letter of Mr. Wohl on the 14th ultimo under the caption "Color Line in Curb Oratory" has made many thinking people open their eyes. I hope they will keep them fixed on the relation between "the man higher up" in the Police Department and street speakers, and also on the corporation counsel's office, which seems to have plenty of time to spare from the pursuit of big violations of the city ordinances. For my part I propose to bring civil suit in each case in which I am interfered with, so that the individual meddler may have to pay the piper; and I suggest that all speakers who stick within the law do the same thing. Incidentally, I should like to see a good many of those who have listened to the lectures at Madison Square at 264 Madison street, the Second District Court, on Thursday at 9 o'clock, since they may be serviceable as witnesses.

HUBERT H. HARRISON.

New York, May 2.

AUGUSTA MAYOR ATTENDS FUNERAL OF NEGRO JANITOR

AUGUSTA, Ga., April 25.—Mayor Hayne, the city council, city officers and two former mayors attended the funeral here today of Robert Young, a negro who had been janitor at the city hall for the past fifty-one years. The council attended in response to a proclamation issued by the mayor.

Race Problem – 1915

United States

BIRDS OF A FEATHER

Nashville, Tennessean.

February 1915

"That's right: now say it again."

THE SOUTH IN THE SADDLE.

TRULY THE SOUTH IS IN THE SADDLE at the seat of the national government. If one doubts the truth of this statement, he has but to glance at some recent legislation at the Capitol designed to humiliate and degrade the colored people of the country. A few days ago the immigration bill passed the Senate with a provision for the exclusion of immigrants of African blood. It met its Waterloo in the House by a decisive vote. The House, not to be outdone, recently passed by an overwhelming vote two bills that strike nearer home. One is a measure to prevent intermarriage between blacks and whites, and the other is to provide separate street cars for the white and colored people for the District of Columbia and segregation in all public places. What the fate of these bills will be when they reach the Senate is problematical. What we do know, however, is that nothing has stirred the colored people of the country like this anti-Negro crusade. From the highest to the lowest, it is the one topic of conversation. We had grown accustomed to the vapory mouthings of the Tillmans and Vardamans. We saw the vitriolic tongue of Tillman silenced by an avenging fate which struck him dumb with paralysis. We saw the long haired braying ass from uncivilized Mississippi fail ignominiously in the defeat of his pet measure, the repeal of the fourteenth amendment. We were now prepared, however, for the epidemic of "colorphobia" now raging among the bourbons at the capitol. And we're not surprised, either. Are they not the sons of the men who founded the institution of slavery? Are they not the men and the sons of the men who sought to overthrow this government? Are they not the same rebels and sons of rebels that laid down their arms at Appomattox? There is nothing new in this attitude of the southern demogogue. He is running true to form. What we cannot understand is northern complacence. Why is not the northern conscience aroused to the injustice of the whole nasty program? The press above Mason and Dixon line, with a few exceptions, is silent; the pulpit is always silent. A few northern congressmen, like Madden, Mann, Sabbath and Gallagher, in the House, and Lewis, in the Senate, have sought to uphold the good name of Illinois, but for the most part our friends up this way have nothing to say. The Negro need not be surprised at legislation hostile to him in the government of the District of Columbia. Many years ago the District was disfranchised because the Negroes were in the majority, politically, and street cars with "Jim Crow" signs have been coming up from Virginia across the Potomac into Washington for a long period. Washington and its environs are strongly pro-southern in sentiment. The District of Columbia, in its attitude toward the Negro, differs not one bit from South Carolina. It is deplorable, however, that such things can take place at the capitol of the nation. Well might we of Negro blood despair if it were not for one exorable law—the law of retributive justice. This condition of things cannot long endure. There is a Divinity that shapes our ends and that Divinity is all wise, all just. A change must and will come, either through an enlightened American conscience or through some great national crisis such as war. Neither demagogues or "Jim Crow" laws can retard our progress. God has decreed that we should rise and futile will be the attempt of blatherskites and southern bulldozers to change the fiat of the Almighty. The Negro will eventually "find a place in the sun."

AN INGRATE

Of all sinners, an ingrate is the basest. There is no character in our social fabric so despicable or detestable as the down-right ingrate. The man who would burn the bridge that landed him safe; who would smite the hand that befriended him; who would perish the individual who helped him is a consummate mongrel that all honest men detest and despise. It matters not whether the field of the ingrate is in the church, society, or State, his sin is not abated; he is the most unforgiving creature in our life.

The dog is grateful and kind to his master for the bread he gives him, for the smiles that greet him and for the soft touch of his hand upon his head. He wags his tail, bows on his knees and growls in an effort to return his gratitude for the kindness shown him by his master. The horse loves his master or his keeper, and lays his head upon his shoulder in gratitude for the treatment received. The bear, monkey, ape and other ferocious animals have enough gratitude in their hearts to be tamed and made docile enough to return the kindness of their keepers by refusing to smite them when they are in their grasp.

But man, the ingrate, the human monstrosity, is less than these brutes. In his selfishness, he forgets the hand that feeds him, the man that makes him or the people who create his opportunities or position, and turns upon them and strikes them with a blade of steel, for the purpose of furthering his personal ends and ingratiating himself into the regard of those whom he would use. How anyone can trust an ingrate The Independent is at a loss to know. The man who would turn his hand to smite the man or people who made him because he thinks it will lift him in the estimation of another people, only waits his opportunity to smite or strike down the second party, when it will serve his personal ends. He is a creature in human skin, whom villains dare not trust, and all honest men detest.

In the field of politics, the ingrate seems to flourish. In the church, he is soon found out and obliterated; in society he is scorned; in business, wrecked, as a result of his own folly; but the most frequent field of the present-day Negro's ingratitude is church and society, the white people having expelled him from politics, he finds but ltitle to vent his sin against.

As a rule, the educated Negro is the most striking example of the down right ingrate. We have in mind quite a dozen educated Negro leaders and professionals whom it has been our pleasure, as well as our duty, to help up in the world, to furnish bread, to furnish life, to furnish activity and an opportunity to construct respectability. These men whom we have done most for are the characters who are most vehement and vile in their denunciations of the hand that uplifted them.

In the church you have but to pick up the newspapers to read of the fulminations of the Negro against his benefactor. In politics you find the little fellow digging a ditch to dethrone the man who gave him political preferment. In society, you find the same traitor at work seeking to take from the man who made him, who gave him social and commercial standing among his fellowmen, and in secret orders, in spite of our obligation, in spite of our duty, in spite of the philosophy of the Golden Rule, you find the ingrate flourishing. Like all traitors, he is short lived. He can not live long upon sin and destruction. The Negro never reasons that he can rise upon his own merits; that he can succeed because of his own real worth; that the world is big enough for him and others to succeed in it. He reasons that in order to rise himself, some other man must come down; that in order to succeed he must show up the demerits of somebody else; he must stand upon the dead body or ruins of some other more helpful and useful character. He thinks he will not shine bright and brilliant in the things men do unless he tears down, obstructs or destroys.

Ingratitude is treason. Treason against God and man. Benedict Arnold was an ingrate and ended his life by betraying his country. Judas was a traitor and an ingrate, and ended his days by seeking to destroy the Savior who had brought him life; who had brought to the world salvation free.

The ingrate is busy in the order of Odd Fellows today seeking to do what he can to undo the men who have not only built up the greatest institution in the world, but who have given him bread, furnished him a job, furnished him dollars and furnished him opportunities to be respectable, decent and to appear in society. Their end will come as the end of all men come, and instead of buildings, as it is their duty to do, upon the foundation that has already been laid, that others may come and benefit as they have, they are called upon to destroy and obstruct, to defame, libel and slander. They are unmindful of the day when they used to sing the praises of the men who they now libel, whom they now defame and vituperate against. They are forgetful of the day when their names were on the pay roll, and the men whom they now curse and denounce could do no harm, or when they had a seat on the band wagon, or when they were leaders of the artificial boosters. If they would read some of the letters they used to write or some of the speeches they used to make in singing the praises of the men at the helm of the order today, if they have any conscience left, they would hang their heads in shame and sneak off like Judas and Benedict Arnold and hang themselves. But the Negro ingrate is the most unconscionable reprobate civilization has produced. But the ingrate will pass; his end is certain; he is not a permanent fixture, for the reason that a man's sins will find him out; and for the further reason that the ingrate can not fool all the people all the time. He may be able to fool all the people a part of the time, a part of the people all the time; but he can not fool all the people all the time.

If Robert Roe or John Doe were good and great men when Mr. Ingrate's name was on the pay roll; if he then sang Mr. Doe's or Mr. Roe's praises, paraded his virtues and elaborated upon his achievements, the sensible people, the reasonable people, the wise people can not understand why Mr. Richard Roe and Mr. John Doe are such rascals now when Mr. Ingrate's name slips from the pay roll.

The ungrateful office seeker, who bleats loud and long about Friendship, Love and Truth and Faith, Charity and Benevolence is the man who, when he has a job, always hunts some man up who does not belong to the order and gives him work that the Odd Fellows, Pythians, Masons and other fraternal men have given him, for the reason that he was a member of the craft. But when he wants a job, he bleats loud and long about the principles of the fraternity.

The Osceola Times had the following to say of Bishop R. A. Carter upon a recent visit he made to Osceola, Arkansas:

Negro Bishop Preaches

"At three o'clock a large audience of both white and colored folks gathered in the circuit court room of the new court house where Bishop R. A. Carter, of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, preached a wonderful sermon on the resurrection. His text was the tenth verse of the 88th Psalm, "Wilt thou show wonders to the dead? shall the dead arise and praise thee?" The bishop is an educated man whose reading has covered a wide scope as his remarks in the beginning of his sermon proved. Several of the facts he brought out, especially concerning Heman, the author of the psalm, were new even to many close students of the Bible.

"His sermon was largely argumentative, though it was interspersed with flashes of wit and brilliancy, and he carried his large audience, both white and black, with him from the beginning. He is not only eloquent, but convincing, and his flights of oratory brought tears of emotion from the white folks and loud responses from his own people.

"The purpose of this meeting was to raise a small amount which is still due on their church here, and we are informed that the white people in his audience responded liberally to his good humored appeal for help. He had preached at their own church in the morning, and had raised considerable of the amount. The Colored Methodists held another service in the court room Sunday night, and several white people who attended say that his sermon was excellent."

AUTHORITIES TO ADDRESS CLUB

Socialist Press Organization to Hear Lectures on Race Antagonisms.

The Socialist Press Club will hold a dinner on Monday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m., at Reisenweber's, Eighth avenue and 58th street. The topic for discussion will be: "Can Socialism Obliterate Race Antagonisms?"

The speakers at the dinner, who will discuss the question from various angles, will be Prof. Franz Boas, anthropologist and ethnologist, of Columbia University; Prof. Jacques Loeb, biologist, of the Rockefeller Institute; Robert Lowie, anthropologist, of the American Museum of Natural History; Louis B. Boudin, well-known Socialist writer; W. E. B. DuBois, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and editor of the Crisis, and Miss Henrietta Szold, active worker in Jewish organizations. Mary W. Ovington, writer and worker in the cause of the Negro, will be chairman.

The subject assumes the existence of race antagonisms, and it is not likely that any of the speakers will challenge this assumption. It is quite certain, however, that divergent views will be expressed by these speakers as to whether or not race antagonisms can be obliterated by Socialism. The studies of Professor Boas have covered the activities of all races. Professor Loeb is an authority upon the biological factors in all social questions. Mr. Lowie has lived among and has closely studied the Indians and other races. Professor DuBois and Miss Ovington are champions of the cause of the Negro, and Miss Szold of the cause of the Jew. Mr. Boudin, as a Socialist, is the champion of the cause of all people and all races. It is expected that a well-known Chinese will be added to the list of speakers.

This dinner promises an unusual post-prandial intellectual treat.

Tickets for the dinner cost $1.25 each (including tip) and may be obtained by making remittance to J. W. Hartmann, 468 West 153d street. All reservations must be made and paid for in advance.

Race Problem — 1915
United States

A TALK WITH CECIL CHESTERTON

New York Times

The Negro Problem and Prohibition in the South Interest Him—Why He Admires Shaw.

WHY did Great Britain, through its Embassy in Washington, "disavow" Cecil Chesterton, who, not content with being G. K. C.'s brother, is Editor of The New Witness and a leader of the democratic movement to abolish the party system? He has carefully stated that his remarks had no official significance, in his debates with various German advocates he has been simply Cecil Chesterton, not Great Britain's representative.

The British Embassy's statement was:

> Mr. Chesterton, who, as is announced in the press, is to attend a meeting in New York, has no connection whatever with the British Government, which would in no circumstances approve of any action taken by him here, and which has no knowledge of his lecturing in the United States.

Of course, the prime reason for this announcement was the Embassy's desire to respect the spirit of President Wilson's views on neutrality and absolutely to avoid the suspicion that it was officially sanctioning any pro-British propaganda in the United States. And to THE TIMES reporter who recently talked to Mr. Chesterton it seemed that the fears of the Embassy were well founded. Mr. Cecil Chesterton might, in spite of his denials, be taken for an official spokesman of Great Britain, because in what a publisher would call "format" he is John Bull himself. He is short, fat, and ruddy, and he smokes a short, fat pipe. All he needs is a tall hat, high boots, a long-tailed coat, and a Union Jack waistcoat to seem a creation of the patriotic pencil of Leech or Keene.

Mr. Chesterton likes America. He has been on this continent only a short time, but that time has been well filled. He has traveled as far west as Chicago and as far south as Atlanta in the course of his lecture tour. A veteran journalist, he has been keenly observant, and, like the traditional "chiel," he has been "takin' notes." As for the rest of the quotation—well, next Autumn's book list will show.

"What do you think of America as an experiment in democracy?" asked the reporter.

"It is a most successful experiment," he answered. "Of course, you are more democratic than we are in England, you could not well be less. The party system, which has worked such harm in England, does not seem in America to be so iron-bound a thing. Its elasticity keeps it from being used to perpetuate oppression. Such fusions as you have over here, when the Republicans and Democrats of a city unite to defeat a ring of corrupt politicians, are unknown in England.

"But, of course, you can scarcely help having a democratic country. The greatest expression of democratic principles ever made, the most definite and illuminating statement, is the Declaration of Independence. That great wave of humanitarian sentiment which swept over the world late in the eighteenth century brought with it the French Revolution and the establishment of the United States of America. And no country founded on the principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence can avoid being democratic."

A part of Mr. Chesterton's tour was through the Southern States, and the reporter thought it likely that there the London journalist would receive more novel and striking impressions than in cosmopolitan New York. This proved to be the case.

"The two things that interested me most in the South," [illegible] "were the negro problem and prohibition. Of course, I am absolutely opposed to the theory of prohibition in general, as an interference with personal liberty, antisocial and undemocratic. But I see that in the South the case is a special one. It really is an aspect of the negro problem.

"When I was in the South I read some novels about the negro problem that had been recommended to me—the works of Thomas Dixon. I read them as I read Disraeli, leaving out the story and paying attention only to the arguments. They seemed to show me this one thing, at any rate, that the South had not yet solved the negro problem. In the South the people said to me when I asked them about it, 'Yes, we have solved the negro problem!' And they said it with a fervor that showed that they had not really solved it. It seems to me that repatriation of the negroes might be a solution, and yet I have no answer to those who say that repatriation is fantastic and impossible. The lynchings and burnings show that the relations between the races are not properly adjusted, for where there is cruelty there is always terror.

"I am inclined to agree with those students of the question who say that the negro ought not to have been admitted to citizenship. The argument that the negro should be admitted to all the privileges of the Republic because he was wronged by being brought here against his will as a slave seems to me to have no moral or ethical foundation.

"Suppose a man leads an immoral life for a long time and then reforms and becomes a good citizen. Certainly there is absolutely no moral code which would compel him then to marry any woman with whom he had immoral relations before his change of heart.

"The situation regarding the negroes is similar, I think. Undoubtedly slavery was an evil thing. Sir John Hawkins, or whoever it was that first brought slaves to America, did a wrong which the Americans of this generation are paying for. But after the slaves were freed there was no logic in the argument that they should be given the franchise as a recompense for having been slaves.

"Great and many as are England's sins," continued Mr. Chesterton, "I hope that she may never have to pay for any of them as America is paying for negro slavery. For there is a certain poetic justice about it. The early Americans sinned in keeping slaves, so their descendants suffer by having to bear this burden. And they have actually to curtail their own liberty for the negro's sake; in order to keep the negroes from drinking they must pass prohibitory laws that bind themselves also.

"But these prohibition laws seem to produce an atmosphere that is most unwholesome; they do not stop drinking, but they make it something secret and shameful. Apparently, the drug stores are the great places for drinking in some Southern prohibition towns; they are great, ornate, elaborately furnished places, evidently not intended for the sale of medicaments, but for convivial intercourse."

Mr. Chesterton greatly admires the American magazines. "Most of them are better than ours, I think," he said. "They are much handsomer and the quality of their contents is, as a rule, higher. I like the newspapers, but it seems to me that the headlines rather defeat their own purposes. When every thing is headed with huge type nothing is conspicuous, and it is difficult to find any item of news in which one may be interested."

Many Americans have been surprised that Mr. Chesterton, who with his brother and Hilaire Belloc is so prominently identified with what is called the Catholic Reactionary Movement in English thought, should be a friend and admirer of Bernard Shaw, the most modern of modernists. Mr. Chesterton said several things which tend to explain this.

"When I was a boy just beginning to interest myself in literature," he said, "the so-called Aesthetic movement was in its glory, if anything so pale and placid may be said ever to be in its glory. The thought of the world had been strongly influenced by what I may term loosely Darwinism. I purposely use this term merely for convenience, outside its scientific significance. The class that is called in Russia the 'Intellegenzia,' the people whom we call the 'Intellectuals,' had for the most part abandoned religion and taken up a sort of despairing mate-

rialism.

"Well, in the course of time it was found out that this materialistic philosophy, which at first many thought would be the salvation of mankind, would really hurt democracy more than it hurt religion. But just then most of the thinking men were materialists, and out of the bleakness of the period came the bleak and profitless literature of the 1890's, written by the young men who called themselves Decadents.

"Wilde was the leader of them, and they made much of the phrase 'art for art's sake.' They polished and polished their work, which had absolutely no relation to the normal life of humanity, and they studded it with fine phrases and brilliant epigrams. They had nothing to prove, no convictions or purposes; they simply worked with words.

"And then came Bernard Shaw, a man with strong, with violent convictions, who took the methods of the Decadents and used them in a way that was certainly not in the least decadent. He had a greater mastery of epigrams and clever phrases than any of them, and he showed that a writer can be more amusing and more interesting when he has definite convictions that he is trying to demonstrate than when he is simply writing on the 'art for art's sake' principle."

It is not easy to get Mr. Chesterton to talk about his own work or that of his brother, but the reporter succeeded in wringing from him the admission that one Gilbert K. Chesterton had shown the world that it is possible to be more daring, more sensational, and more entertaining when supporting the orthodox point of view than when attacking it.

As Beatrice Forbes-Robertson, who recently discussed woman suffrage with Mr. Chesterton, and George Sylvester Viereck, who on a certain memorable occasion strove to uphold against him the banner of Germany, are aware, Mr. Chesterton is, in the Elizabethan phrase, "some debater." This makes one of his comments on Bernard Shaw particularly significant.

"Shaw," he said, "is probably the best debater in England today. And he discovered that a good debate, which is itself an interesting and exciting thing, could be turned into an interesting and exciting play. 'Man and Superman' is a brilliant debate; 'John Bull's Other Island' is a brilliant debate. This method of playwriting, however, which has been so wonderfully successful in Shaw's case, is only effective when the playwright is a good debater

"Other playwrights, who do not know how to debate, have attempted to follow Shaw's example and failed dismally. John Galsworthy has made several fruitless efforts in this direction. And this was the method used in positively the worst play I ever saw—Israel Zangwill's 'The Next Religion.' Mr. Zangwill has done in the past some excellent work, but when he attempted to follow in the perilous paths of Shaw he fell with a great crash. 'The Next Religion' was banned by the censor. It is to be supposed that the censor found something in it to shock him. If so, I envy the censor."

Although Mr. Chesterton likes American people, trains, hotels, magazines, food, drinks, and most other things American, he had something not altogether favorable to say about certain phases of American culture.

"I have been somewhat surprised," he said, "to find that in a young, strong country like America there is to be found the slightest trace of that sickly sort of literature and art called 'decadent.' When a country is old and worn out, then such things as aestheticism and futurism and the rest of the rubbish are more or less to be expected. But they are not to be expected in a country that is young and fresh and healthy.

"This has been brought to my mind rather forcibly recently. When I met several young American poets, some of them, I noticed, were dressed in a fashion now happily obsolete in England. They were dressed exactly as young decadent poets used to dress in England in the 1890's. I confess that I was surprised. That dismal vegetable, the green carnation, long ago withered in England. Who would expect to find it springing up from the wholesome soil of the United States?"

NEGROES IN DANGER.

White Cap Signs Cover the Town.

Midland, Tex., May 5.—The town was thrown into a panic, the streets were lined with notices: (Negro, Don't Let the Sun Go Down on You, Monday, May 10th.) The cause of this is the little town is overflown with low class Negroes, which makes it hard on the better class of colored people. The good white people are standing by the better class of colored people. On account of the excitement, Rev. J. Q. Maples did not fill his appointment. Mrs. Laura Jackson entertained the Art Club Friday; a three-course luncheon was served. Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Montgomery have moved to Colorado. Mr. Bob Williams, of El Paso, is here.

THE NEGRO'S FADING COLOR.

While negroes increased numerically in the United States between 1900 and 1910 to the extent of 11.2 per cent, they did not keep pace with the whites. That was due to immigration. On this account there has been a continuous decrease in the proportion of negroes to the rest of the inhabitants. In 1790 negroes made up nearly one-fifth of the population; in 1910 they composed slightly over one-tenth.

Further, the number of mulattoes appears to have increased continuously during the last forty years. Of the 9,827,763 negroes in the country at the time of the last counting, more than one-fifth were of mixed white and negro blood. That indicates how prevalent is the process of miscegenation, a process through which in the course of a thousand years or so the negro will have lost his color, according to at least one anthropologist of great reputation.

In 1900 20 per cent of negro homes were owned. In 1910 the percentage had grown to 22.4. In Virginia 41.3 per cent of all negro homes were owned, an extremely high figure.

Virginia, however, had fewer negroes in 1910 than it had a decade previous. From Virginia 206,764 negroes migrated to other states during the ten-year period. Though popular opinion in the South holds that negroes "go North" when they move, Arkansas, a southern state, showed the greatest gain from this migration.

* * * * *

A TERRIBLE DEATH RATE.

But while negroes have progressed, poverty still shows its handicap. The death rate of negroes in thirty-three northern cities, each having a negro population of at least 2,500 in 1910, was 25.1 per thousand. This was a decrease of 2 per thousand in a decade but it was still very high in comparison with the white death rate of 15.7 per thousand, incidentally a lowering of 2.5 per thousand for the whites.

A comparison for twenty-four southern cities showed a rate of 29.6 for negroes, a decrease of 4 per thousand, and 16.9 for whites, a decrease of 2.9 from 1900. Malaria, tuberculosis, pneumonia and whooping cough seem to be more deadly among negroes than among whites, while negroes are better able to withstand measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, cancer, appendicitis diarrhea and violence. Also fewer negroes commit suicide.

Dr. W. F. Brunner, health officer of Savannah, Ga., shows clearly in the current Survey how much of a menace this high death rate is to both negroes and whites in the South.

In 1913 there were about 39,000 whites and 42,000 negroes in Savannah. Deaths from natural causes totaled 1,038 among the negroes and only 442 among the whites. The infamous housing conditions which are forced upon city dwelling negroes, North and South, account for this great disparity. Of course, however, the city which permits a high death rate among negroes pays the penalty among all its people. Bacteria are color blind.

* * * * *

INCREASING EDUCATION.

But the growing literacy of the negroes is an occasion for general approval. In every city and state the percentage of illiteracy among negroes is lower in younger generations than in the older. In Georgia, for example, among negroes from 10 to 14 years old the percentage of those who can't write was 22.1. Among those between 25 and 34 years the percentage of illiteracy was 32.7. Among those from 55 to 64 years and over the percentage was 70.2. The negro is taking advantage of the educational opportunities at hand.

In Boston the number of negro children who go to school is in a greater proportion than the number of native white children in ten other census cities. But even so, less than half of the negro children from 6 to 20 years old are attending school, taking the country as a whole. These bare figures, however, recount a record of progress made possible only by tremendous efforts. Within sixty years of freedom the negro has achievements to his credit of which any race might be proud.

"THE NEGRO PROBLEM."

Franklin Literary Society Will Discuss Southern Question.

William P. Pickett will deliver an address on "The Negro Problem" at the next meeting of the Franklin Literary Society, which will be held next Monday evening, March 8, at the Pacific Branch of the Public Library, Fourth avenue and Pacific street. Following the address there will be a discussion of the topic, "Has the South a Republican Form of Government?" Edmund F. Driggs will open the discussion and will be followed by Arthur H. Delano, Evan J. Rustin, William J. Dilthey, Nicholas Ehrlich, Ira L. Rosenson, Andrew Nicola and Mr. Pickett. The public is invited to attend.

PICKETT TO DISCUSS "THE NEGRO PROBLEM"

At the meeting of the Franklin Literary Society, to be held Monday evening at the Public Library Building, Pacific street and Fourth avenue, William P. Pickett will deliver an address on "The Negro Problem." A general discussion on the topic, "Has the South a Republican Form of Government?" will follow.

Color Line in Curb Oratory.

Editor of The Globe, Sir—It has been a practice of mine to listen for a few moments each day to the speeches made by different people at Wall and Broad streets. To-day a colored gentleman was doing the talking, or rather trying to. Each time this earnest talker tried to get down to the real object of his talk (hygienic education) the officers of the law (?) uttered loud cries of "Move along there!" "Don't block the road!" "Beat it!" "Don't come up on the sidewalk!" etc. Now this would be all right if all speakers were treated that way, but they aren't. Father Wilkinson can have as large a crowd as he can get. So can the gentleman who speaks for the Department of Hygienic Education, but this gentleman, because of his color or race is not allowed to have more than a certain number. What is the cause of this?

H. WOHL.

New York, April 12.

I seem to climb a hard, ascending track,
And just behind me labored one whose patient face was black.
I pitied him, but hour by hour he gained up the path;
He stood beside me; stood upright, and then I turned in wrath,
"Go back," I cried. "What right have you to walk beside me here?
For you are black and I am white."
I pause, struck dumb with fear, for lo the black man was not there,
But Christ stood in his place;
And lo the pain, the pain the pain that looked from that dear face.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox

DISCUSSES RACE PREJUDICES.

Prof. Bernelot-Moens Tells Colored People How to Combat Them.

Dwelling upon the conditions of the colored race in the United States, Prof. Herman M. Bernelot-Moens of Holland, at a meeting last evening of the Bethel Literary and Historical Association, at the Metropolitan A. M. E. Church, spoke on "Civilization or Barbarism—Which?" He told his audience that the way to overcome race prejudice, which he declared was the basis for the differences between the white and colored races, was for the colored people to aim at moral and intellectual superiority. Prof Bernelot-Moens is a specialist in embryology, paleontology and anthropology.

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United States

WOULDN'T POSE FOR NEGROES.

Chicago Model Formerly of Texas Draws the Color Line.

CHICAGO, Oct. 20.—A second [illegible] of the art institute has drawn the color line and today she told her reasons. She, like the originator in this line of artistic endeavor, is looking for another job. She fears she will have to go back into the movies. And she did so like posing.

Miss Della Raines is the young woman. The other young woman was Miss Mamie Blanha. She afterwards went on the stage.

It was this afternoon that Miss Raines entered one of the rooms of the art institute prepared to pose. She saw three negroes there ready to draw. She left the room and another model was substituted. She had told the teacher, Miss Jesse P. Lacey, she could not pose before negro men.

"I could not do it," she said. "I'll have to go back to the movies now, I suppose. I come from Dallas, Tex., and we look at things in a different way. There was no argument, no excitement. I simply refused to pose under the gaze of a negro."

W. F. Tuttle, assistant secretary of the art institute, substantiated Miss Raines's story.

"We are democratic here," he said. "We can't bar any one race. We merely substituted another model and went ahead. That closed the incident."

April 1915

NEGRO PLEADS PREJUDICE.

Asks Highest Court Not to Extradite Him to South Carolina.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—The release on habeas corpus of Frederick Brown, a negro, held in Philadelphia for extradition to South Carolina to answer to a murder charge, was sought in the Supreme Court to-day on the ground that constitutional guarantee of a fair trial is a dead letter in South Carolina so far as negroes are concerned.

"Public sentiment is such in the State of South Carolina that negroes may be lynched in the most horrible manner and their bodies distributed as souvenirs," the brief filed with the court declares.

"It is the unwritten law that if a negro is so unfortunate as to kill a white man he may be killed or lynched as an outlaw by any one who has the time to indulge in the diversion."

Brown failed to get a writ in the Pennsylvania courts.

[illegible] 1915

What "White People?"

Louisville has a fairly large negro population. The whites and negroes get along well and are mutually serviceable. There is no quarrel between representative whites and representative negroes. An effort to burn the Paul Dunbar School follows a hooligan card stating that "niggers in Louisville are getting too much education." The Chief of Police probably may be right in believing that the card was written by an ignorant negro. If it was not it was the work of an ignorant white who represents nothing other than the spirit of ignorant malice.

It seems unlikely that the miscreant who tried to burn the school will escape punishment. Respectable whites and respectable negroes alike will be glad to see the penalty made to fit the crime.

The Paul Dunbar School bears the name of a distinguished negro poet whose work and personality merited and were accorded, the respect of the two races. Its usefulness is recognized by white persons and negroes alike The assault of illiterate hatred—assuming that the perpetrator of the attempt at arson is not a lunatic—has no bearing whatever upon the relationship between the two races in Louisville. That relationship is, in the main, cordial and regards all respectable and useful negroes and whites.

ST. PAUL PIONEER PRESS

[illegible] 1915

SEES HOPE FOR NEGRO: Can Become Power in Southern Lawmaking, Says E. G. S.

To the Editor of the Pioneer Press:

Judging from the daily series published in the columns of the Mail Bag it appears as though some of the authors desire to hold a masterly influence over the minds of the intelligent public.

When a writer suggests sending a large supply of Bibles to a warlike tribe to settle affairs of state, would it not be a capital idea to suggest a trip to one of our public institutions at Faribault.

I learn through the public press that some of my American constituents are in doubt as to which way to throw their aid in case of a crisis. Any person born under the United States flag can only be, in time of a crisis, a patriot or traitor.

We are aware that the colored man has not received justice according to his deserts.

It was a sad day for the colored man when the disfranchised rebel disabilities were removed. Could this have been avoided there would be no Tillmans spreading hatred in the National Capital. There is only one avenue open for the colored man. He must take his initiative, fight for America, live an honest life, learn to be universally clannish, improve the brains, do not beg for mercy, but demand your rights as an American citizen. Spend money to employ legal talent to see that your vote is given just consideration throughout the U. S. A. If you vote unitedly and intelligently with aid of legal talent you will break up existing conditions south of Mason and Dixon's line in less than fifty years more, and with a proper increase you will be a great power in your states' legislatures.

E. G. S.

SAYS NEGROES ARE TRUE AMERICANS

"The big problem which caused the Civil War—the negro—still remains, and neither North nor South faces it frankly," said Dr. Charles Fleischer, leader of the Sunday Commons, in his address at Huntington Chambers Hall yesterday afternoon.

"That is a problem which will not be solved until all Americans together face it as one of the tests of the practical worth of our democratic doctrine," he declared.

"The negro must regard himself—and must by his white fellow-Americans be regarded—as not only a human brother, but specifically a brother American. Not only does he belong to America, but America belongs to him. Likewise with every other element that has come here since the earliest days of the Anglo-Saxon settlements. America is for all who have come to make America their home. That very fact makes Americans of them, namely, that as human beings they have sought this land as their haven.

"Now it remains for all of us, who represent different human strains, to get together on the basis of self-respect and in the spirit of mutual respect for the sake of the land common to all of us, and which we wish to make our common cause, not against, but for the sake of the whole world."

THE COLOR LINE.

The Jersey negroes who have been rescuing and helping to rescue white people from drowning during the past few weeks have been doing much to prove that the color of a man's skin has nothing to do with the calibre of his heart. This is especially true in view of an Atlantic Highlands report to the effect that a crowd of white bathers there made no move when a negro sank to his death in the surf, after vainly crying for help.

The Negro Farmer, published at Tuskegee institute, makes a feature in its issue of the 13th, of a discussion of the question: "Ought colored men to enlist if the United States enter the European war?" It is, of course, a highly academic question which it would perhaps be just as well not to discuss at all just now, but having been raised it is not surprising that the editor answers it in the affirmative. The Negro's patriotism is not questioned even in quarters where his full status of citizenship is slow of recognition. Regardless of groups and classes with conflicting interests and different degrees of well-being, we are all Americans when it comes to a pinch—or if the pinch doesn't come.

MEXICANS EXONERATED OF CONSPIRACY CHARGE

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas, Feb. 27.—Charges of seditious conspiracy against the United States in an alleged plot to form a republic of Mexicans and Negroes in South Texas were dismissed today at the hearing of Manel Flores and A. Gonbales.

United States Commissioner Southgate ordered both [illegible] prisoners released on the grounds that the evidence against Flores and Gonzales was insufficient.

The warrant charged that eight Mexicans of South Texas, including Flores and Gonzales, had formed a conspiracy, planning an uprising against all male whites over 16 years of age, to take place on Washington's birthday.

NEGRO IN THE NORTH.

A conference on the problem of negro school children held in New York last week under the auspices of the Public Education Association brought out some unpleasant facts as to the handicaps which the children suffer in the school and the undesirable conditions surrounding the home. The most significant evidence, however, appears to have been that the negro, with a proper opportunity, is capable of great improvement. Two speakers of authority pointed out that the negroes are "not a pauper nor a begging people" and do not ask for relief until their condition is such as to make it necessary. They deserve a far better chance than they get—in the North certainly, as well as in the South.—Springfield Republican

Milwaukee, Wis.

JOURNAL

[illegible] 1915

Colored Lecturer Here.

W. T. Johnson, colored lecturer, Lincoln, Neb., who has been on the platform since his emancipation from slavery, will lecture Friday night on the problems of betterment among the colored people, at Berg's hall, 325 Chestnut-st. The lecture was originally announced to take place at Freie Gemeinde hall.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Rutherford Republican

The article by [illegible] of Lyndhurst, published in another part of this paper, is a common sense plea for the people of his race, and is a mighty interesting article to read. Do so.

Augusta Chronicle

Apr 4 1915

Negro Progress.

Fifty years ago the negroes of the United States were a propertyless, irresponsible race cast adrift to shift for themselves. They are today a whole far from the thrifty, intelligent state that most whites seem to demand of them, but recent census figures reveal a really surprising evolution.

There are now nearly 10,000,000 negroes in this country, four-fifths of pure negro blood. They operate 900,000 farms, with a value of about $1,200,000,000. Nearly one-fourth of them own their own homes. Of those over 10 years of age, seven out of ten are engaged in gainful occupations. There are 3,700,000 of them belonging to church organizations.

Ithaca N Y

JOURNAL

APR 1915

THE NEGRO'S ADVANCE.

The splendid advance of the negro since the days of his human chattelship is well illustrated by a recent census bulletin. This report shows that the colored men of the United States operate 893,000 farms valued at $1,142,000,000. Twenty-two per cent. own their homes, and of those above the age of ten years seventy-one per cent. are in gainful occupations. Incidentally, approximately eighty per cent. are of pure negro blood and 3,685 are communicants or members of church organizations.

A race that can accomplish so much as that in fifty years from slavery has a right to feel that its good as well as its bad qualities—and what race has not some of the latter?—deserve public attention and appreciation

High Death Rate Among Negroes.

Why is the death rate among negroes, in Northern cities and Southern cities alike, almost twice as great as among whites? At the last census the average death rate in the fifty-seven registration cities was 15.9 per thousand among whites, while among negroes it was 27.8. In the North the ratio was roughly 15 to 25, in the South 16 to 29. Taking those degeneracies that have a nervous origin or that come from high living, the ratio among writes was greater, but in tuberculosis and pneumonia, the plague of both races, the havoc among negroes preponderates enormously. What are the reasons for this hideous disparity? The reason, as every one may guess, is the poverty of the negro. The death rate stands in almost fixed relation to housing conditions, and it is clearly proved that as home ownership increases, the death rate diminishes. In the degree that negroes remain economically inferior, their portion will not merely be social hardship but a vastly greater share of physical suffering and mortal disease. It is these hard facts that make race prejudice so base. The only prejudice that figures like these should induce is prejudice against a poverty which is literally more pestilential than war.—The New Republic.

Columbia, S. C.

State

APR 4 1915

WHITE ... PAY VISIT

Negroes Near Kingstree Suffer Severe Treatment.

Special to The State.

Kingstree, April 3.—Several nights ago a great commotion occurred among the negro population of "Bluford Town," a village near Nesmith, in this county, on account of the visit by a band of "white caps" to the home of Redmond Bluford, who was taken from his bed about 2 o'clock in the morning and administered a severe beating. Bluford is said to be a bad, overbearing sort of a negro and was a terror in the community. The white caps did not stop at this piece of lawlessness, but went to the home of Alex Scott, said by community residents to be an inoffensive negro boy, who had done no one any harm, took him out and cut and beat him into insensibility, even stabbing him over the heart with a knife, which, it is said, would have been fatal had the blade note struck a bone. This is the first time in the history of this section that such lawless methods have been adopted.

NEW YORK WORLD

APR 1915

Fair Play for the Negro.

To the Editor of The World:

Such papers as yours give me renewed faith in the fair play of "Caucasian Americans."

The negro is weaker in this country than any other race of the many who compose this great commonwealth.

In the face of overwhelming odds, with our enemies in control, determined and powerful, and our friends (?) weak, indifferent and cowardly, and even the colored people themselves quite unaware of the powerful forces against them, it is a true sign of greatness and broad-mindedness when you dare use your most powerful paper in our defense as you have never failed to do.

ONE OF THE PROSCRIBED.

New York, March 27.

WILL APPEAL TO JOHN BULL

Clarksdale, Miss., January 21.—U. S. Duffus, a West Indian colored man, came to this city a few weeks ago and opened a tailoring establishment. The white people did not take kindly as to his entrance into business, and the chief of police told him to "git." He demurred and got a cussing for his pains. He appealed to the mayor, but the latter said that there were too many tailors in town and that he must leave town forthwith.

Duffus when he reached Memphis telegraphed a protest to the British Ambassador at Washington, and the latter may take the matter up with the State Department as Duffus is a British subject.

SAYS A WRONG

IS BEING DONE COLORED RACE

PRESBYTERIAN PASTOR QUOTES "MUGGSY" McGRAW.

ACCUSES CLERGY OF SILENCE

Business Will Not Give Negro an Equal Chance with Any Other Race.

The attitude of the clergy of the United States to the colored employment problem, was coupled with that assumed by "Muggsy" McGraw, of the Giants, who refuses to have colored players on his team, although he regards a colored pitcher as better than "Matty" or Johnson, by Rev. Dr. W. A. Byrd, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian church, this morning. He said: "Is there not enough of the spirit of Jesus in the clergy of this land that it will seek to know the grave injustice of this and cry out against it?

"Mr. Jonh McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, says if it were not for the color line he would employ colored men as members of his team. Donalson f Kansas City, a colored pitcher is the marvel of the country according to Mr. McGraw, but Donalson however superior he may be to Matthewson or Johnson of Washington, cannot enter the big leagues, for the reason that he is a black man. What is true in baseball is true in almost every other walk or profession where it is possible to bar colored men. The nrth as well as the south is guilty of this practice.

"No other impediment in the way of the race progress is so disastrous as this. The great corporations of this country do not act so with any other race. A Pole, Dane, German, Slav, Hungarian, Italian, Jew, Greek or any other race enters all places of employment and can hope to rise but the moment a black man enters any corporation and asks for employment, he is given a place that makes him feel and know that he is not considered the peer of other races, but must be satisfied to be the servants of servants.

No Reason for Prejudice.

"There is no reason why a colored man should not be employed in any position. We are told that he is incompetent. How does any one know? He has never had the opportunity to show his competence. The great railways of this country, transcontinental and street, bar colored men from positions of trust and responsibility. They can be engineers, conductors, flagmen, brakemen, ticket agents, train despatchers, etc., just as other men. All they need is a chance. The great department stores could have no more efficient and polite help than a cultured colored girl. This door, however, is closed to the colored girl.

"The other races want it, hence colored people are barred. If the business

Continued

Rev. Dr. W. A. Byrd.

The State Senate of Oklahoma has excluded from the Senate Chamber copies of the Tulsa Star. Editor A. J. Smitherman had published in its columns an article portraying the valuable service of the colored man to this country, his statesmanship during the days of reconstruction. Senator Keller objected to this and his colleagues agreed with him. Editor Smitherman is chuckling over the free advertising he has obtained as a result of the incident and his journal will be in great demand among the colored folks, who are now anxious to understand the cause of all the trouble.

Washington Star

March 1915

Pays Tribute to Negro Race.

The Bethel Literary and Historical Society was addressed by Representative Thacher of Massachusetts last night at Metropolitan A. M. E. Zion Church. The speaker praised the aims of the society and paid tribute to the negro race for the rapid progress which it has made during the past half-century.

Race Problem — 1915
South America

NEGROES OF BRAZIL AND RACE QUESTION

How Great South American Republic is Handling Problem—No Divisions on Account of Color Apparent. The Black Belt of Bahia.

(Copyright, 1915, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Bahia.—For almost 300 years Bahia was the centre of the slave trade of Brazil. The first negro slave was brought here from Africa in 1583, only 91 years after Columbus started out to discover America. Two years later there were more than 14,000 African slaves in the country, and the importations continued off and on until 1860, when British gunboats were stationed in the south Atlantic ocean for the purpose of suppressing the traffic. Nevertheless, 10 years later there were still 1,800,000 slaves in Brazil, and in 1885 the number was still more than 1,000,000. The emancipation proclamation of Brazil was issued over 10 years before that time, but the abolition of slavery was gradual and it was not until 1888 that it was finally abolished.

At the beginning of the last century Brazil had less than a half million whites and something like 1,500,000 negroes. There were also 700,000 Indians. The whites exploited the negroes and the Indians, and they had so developed the country that they had a foreign trade of about ten million dollars. At that time 20,000 slaves were being annually imported and 5,000 were sold in the market of Rio de Janeiro. Many of the slaves were the property of the crown and others were attached to the convents. The negro population was employed in every kind of labor, both civil and criminal. It is said that some of the masters played the part of the old Jew, Fagin, in "Oliver Twist." They would send out from twenty to one hundered slaves in the morning without their breakfast and compel them to bring in a certain amount of money at night. What they got over that amount belonged to themselves. The builders made each slave bring back with him a stone fit for construction and white mechanics had slaves to carry their tools.

Have Their Rights.

Today the negroes of Brazil have, if anything, more rights than the negroes of the United States. They are proportionately far greater in number, although the white race is said to be increasing more rapidly than the negro. This is so in the United States. In 1850 the proportion of negroes in our country was a little over 15 per cent. In 1880 it had fallen to about 13 per cent, while in 1910 it was a little more than 10 per cent. We had then over 9,000,000 people with more or less African blood in their veins, whereas Brazil, with less than one-fifth of our population, had over 5,000,000. Of these more than one-third were pure negroes, and that is probably the proportion among the negroes of the Brazil of today. The fewest are now to be found right on the equator, while the most live in the State of Rio de Janeiro, forming a part of the capital city. There are ten times as many negroes in the State of Rio as in the State of Amazonas.

Going farther north between the equator and Rio de Janeiro we find the black spots of the republic. It is estimated that 80 per cent. of the people of these States of Bahia and Pernambuco have a sprinkling of negro blood in their veins. Going south this proportion dwindles, until on the borders of Uruguay the negro is a rarity.

I am told that the white race is increasing in all the States, and especially in the warmer ones. The most negroes are found in the places where the slaves were the most numerous and in the cities to which they have emigrated.

Bahia was for a long time the centre of the slave trade, not only for South America, but for North America as well. The kidnapers caught their cargoes along the gulf of Guinea and in Portuguese West Africa and ran them across to Brazil. They landed them at Bahia and from there shipped them to the United States and the West Indies. Thousands were smuggled into New Orleans after we had prohibited the slave trade, and they were landed in Cuba and Puerto Rico at the same time. It was with one of these importations that the first yellow fever came to Brazil. This was about 1683, just 100 years after the introduction of slavery.

Freed by Degrees.

The freeing of the slaves was accomplished after a different method in Brazil from that of the United States. The Brazilians did not require a war to free more than one-third of their people. The first law for the liberty of the negro went into effect in 1871. It provided that all negro children born in and after 1872 should have the right to purchase their freedom for sums ranging from $450 to $550. In 1885 all negroes over 65 were liberated and in 1888 the institution of slavery was entirely abolished. In order to bring about this act great agitation was necessary. The campaign for the freeting of the slaves began 30 years before they were given their liberty and among the agitators were two negroes who ranked there much as Frederick Douglass ranked in the United States. These men were Luiz Gama and Jose do Patrocinio. Each of them probably was the equal of Douglass, and together they had great weight with the republic. There were also associations inspired by the abolition movement, and Emperor Dom Pedro II encouraged the cause.

Today a large number of the negroes own property. Some of them have bought this with their earnings; others were given small allotments of land by their masters. Many of them make money as mechanics and a few have found a place in the professions as lawyers, doctors and editors. Not long ago the Bishop of Amazonas, a territory about one-fifth the size of the United States, was a negro, and the chief editor of the most popular newspaper of Rio had African blood in his veins.

At first the freeing of the negroes disorganized all kinds of industries. The supply of free labor was inadequate and the slaves at first did little but loaf. They came to the cities and it was only when they found they could not obtain food without working for it that they drifted back to the farms. For a time many plantations had to be abandoned for lack of labor, and not far from the city of Rio de Janeiro there are still large estates which have become jungles, although during slavery days they were producing large crops.

The whites are increasing rapidly by immigration and the bulk of the immigrants are going to the south. This increase of the whites in a region where they are already so greatly in the majority will eventually make that part of the republic like our States of the North. Before the European war began immigrants were coming in at the rate of between 100,000 and 200,000 a year, and as soon as the war is over there will be an increase. All the state governments of Brazil are spending large sums to encourage immigrants. Many of them have immigrant hotels, and not a few have established colonies and do all they can to bring in new blood. Most of the immigrants come from the southern States of Europe, and chiefly from Italy. More than half the number are Italians, and it is estimated that there are more than 1,000,000 Italians now in the republic.

Chance for Immigrants.

Many of the immigrants are employed in the coffee plantations, not a few are in colonies, and many are making money. I have statements from the government which show that most of the Italian colonists of Sao Paulo, who have been here for 20 years, have incomes of about $2,000, while four have incomes of $5,000 per annum. Three have incomes of more than $10,000, while one has $13,000, and another is the owner of three factories, 500,000 coffee trees, and has an annual income of $33,000. I am told that the German immigration has been overestimated, and that the total number of Germans in the country is less than 4,000, all told.

Returning to the negro question, Brazil has never had a color line, and there has never been a popular prejudice here against the mixing of the races. although some of the leading whites deny that there is now much intermarriage between the whites and the blacks. Take, for instance, Dr. Jose Carlos Rodriguez, the editor of The Journal do Commercio of Rio. He tells me that the whites and blacks do not marry at present, although the tendency of the mulattoes is to marry with the whites. He believes that the race is marrying up instead of down, and that in time the negro will be lost and his blood will be swallowed up in the white. He says there is no prejudice in Brazil against the negro, although there may be, perhaps, a social one.

Others tell me that the social objection does not obtain, and, as far as I can see, the whites and the negroes move along side by side, arm in arm, and on the same level. There is an absolute equality as to the street cars, railroad cars, hotels and steamers. No one thinks of objecting to the presence of any man or woman in the dining room on account of color. On the coasting steamer in which I came here two-thirds of the passengers were negroes, and many of them were better dressed than I. Some were very intelligent, and not a few were property owners. I have already spoken of the Bishop of Amazonas. I met him one night at a reception of the American minister. His blessedness had a face of mahogany brown. He wore the dress of a cardinal, having a red skull cap on his head and a big ring of office which was covered with a cardinal glove.

A Black Belt.

Here in this State of Bahia three-fourths of the population are negroes. Nearly every one you meet on the street shows some trace of negro blood. There are many blacks, and the Bahia black women are famous for their size. I have seen some that weigh 300 pounds. They have a peculiar dress, consisting of a long white chemise without sleeves. This is cut low at the neck and the fat satiny arms of jet black are exposed. In the neck of the chemise is a lace edging of beautiful design, and through its meshes the black skin shows out. Many of these women wear gay colored turbans, and not a few have shawls about the waist, forming a sort of overskirt. They are often loaded with jewelry. Many of them are barefooted. They are very straight and frequently go about with burdens balanced on the tops of their heads. They are good natured and their jolly laughter can be heard a block off.

Most of the negroes I have seen in Brazil seem to be happy. I am told they enjoy play much better than work and that half their lives is devoted to amusements and festivals. In the coffee regions when the harvest is over. they bring boughs of the coffee trees to which they have tied paper ribbons of bright color, shouting for their employer to give the signal for the opening of the festival. They are fond of parties and when leaves and branches are hung over the door of a hut you may know that some kind of an entertainment is going on within. They have dances of their own which are accompanied by songs in dialogue and they have popular songs, a sort of a Brazilian ragtime, that go over the country.

Most of them are religious. Many of the priests and preachers have African blood in their veins. The negroes have their own churches everywhere. There are more than 400 negro churches in this city alone. They are fond of the moving picture show and the circus brings them out en masse.

One of the worst vices of the negroes of Brazil is drunkenness. Liquor is very cheap in this country and sugar-brandy can be bought at such a rate that a day's wages will keep a man drunk for a week. So far there has been no great prohibition movement and the question as to whether a locality shall be wet or dry is not agitated.

I am delighted with the city of Bahia. It has now 250,000 inhabitants and it is rapidly growing. The city is one of the oldest on the American continent. It was founded in 1549, only 57 years after the discovery of America, and it was the capital of Brazil for 200 years. At present it is the capital of the State of Bahia and one of the chief commercial ports of the republic. Bahia has 700 miles of coast line and it has an area about five times that of Kentucky. A great part of the State is mountainous, and much of it is more than 2,000 feet above the level of the sea and is consequently healthy. The country produces great quantities of tobacco, coffee, sugar and cotton. It is the Cuba of Brazil as far as tobacco is concerned, yielding something like 80,000,000 pounds and as much as 2,600 pounds to the acre. As to cotton it grows wild in Bahia and sugar will grow anywhere. There are cotton and sugar mills in different parts of the State.

A Good Harbor.

The city of Bahia has an excellent harbor. It is known as the Bay of All the Saints. The town stands on a high bluff lining the shore. Its houses are of three or four stories and their walls, as you look at them from the sea, make you think of pigeon houses, the windows in the distance looking like holes. The business section is close to the harbor, the chief residences are o the heights, the city running far b into the country. Bahia is imposing as viewed from the sea. Palm trees stand here and there among the houses, which seem to rise in tiers up from the docks. The streets along the river are paved with asphalt. Some of them have walls of blue tiles which shine under the rays of the sun. The custom house officers are negroes. The policemen are negroes. They are dressed in blue suits and walk with a strut. It seems strange to hear negroes talk Portuguese.

The market house of Bahia came from the United States. It was ordered for Buenos Ayres, but bought by Bahia. It is a great building of glass and steel, standing in the lower town close to the sea. It covers two or three acres and it is filled with iron cages and stalls beautifully finished. Each stall is a shop. The market is filled with vegetables and meats and merchandise of every description. There is no cold storage plant connected with it and all meat must be sold the day that it is killed. Some does not keep throughout the day, and as a result the prices go down as the clock goes around. You can buy a tenderloin steak at 3 o'clock for about one-third of its cost at noon. Most of the market men and market women are negroes and the porters are blacks, who carry their produce around on their heads.

Another American product is the elevator that carries one up to the bluff. Its tower is made of American steel and the motive power is electricity. There are also electric railways between the two sections. The latter wind their way up the hills.

They pass many fine houses and then go on into the new residential district, where there are buildings some of which cost as much as $150,000. Many of them are of stone, others are of brick and others are walled with bright colored porcelain tiles as fine as those of a bath room. Still other buildings are covered with carving. The lawns are well kept and filled with tropical plants. Some of the houses seem to stand in little gardens of Eden. Everywhere new buildings are going up. The laborers are widening the streets. They are laying down asphalt and putting in sidewalks of tile. Bahia will some time be one of the large cities of South America. It may reach a million inhabitants. Among the new buiidings is the state capitol, or rather the old capitol that is being rebuilt. It was almost destroyed during the revolution a few years ago when it was cannonaded by the federal troops from the harbor. One of the cannon balls went through the lower clock of the municipal building, others damaged the capitol itself.

With all these improvements, it is surprising how the new tramps on the heels of the old. Some of the houses of the lower section have been there for centuries. Mules haul carts side by side with the street cars, and the automobiles fly past lines of negroes carrying goods on their heads. Much of the water of the lower town is still supplied by peddlers. The water is carried on donkeys, each of which has two five-gallon kegs on its back. A keg of water costs 3 cents. The peddler leads the donkey from door to door, and he carries the keg on his shoulder.

Many of the people are illiterate. Nevertheless, the town has a medical school, an engineering school and a normal school, with a children's garden adjoining. It has geological and historical institutes, and its churches are numbered by hundreds.

Frank G Carpenter.

Race Problem - 1915
South America.

THE NEGROES OF BRAZIL

By FRANK G. CARPENTER
(Copyright, 1915, by F. G. Carpenter.)

Bahia.

FOR almost 300 years Bahia was the center of the slave trade of Brazil. The first negro slave was brought here from Africa in 1583, only 91 years after Columbus started out to discover America. Two years later there were more than 14,000 African slaves in the country, and the importations continued off and on until 1860, when British gunboats were stationed in the south Atlantic ocean for the purpose of suppressing the traffic. Nevertheless, 10 years later there were still 1,800,000 slaves in Brazil, and in 1885 the number was still more than 1,000.000. The emancipation proclamation of Brazil was issued over 10 years before that time, but the abolition of slavery was gradual, and it was not until 1888 that it was finally abolished.

At the beginning of the last century Brazil had less than 500,000 whites and something like 1,500,000 negroes. There were also 700,000 Indians. The whites exploited the negroes and the Indians, and they had so developed the country that they had a foreign trade of about $10,000,000. At that time 20,000 slaves were being annually imported and 5000 were sold in the market of Rio de Janeiro. Many of the slaves were the property of the crown and others were attached to the convents. The negro population was employed in every kind of labor, both civil and criminal. It is said that some of the masters played the part of the old Jew, Feagin, in "Oliver Twist." They would send out from 20 to 100 slaves in the morning without their breakfast and compel them to bring in a certain amount of money at night. What they got over that amount belonged to themselves. The builders made each slave bring back with him a stone fit for construction and white mechanics had slaves to carry their tools.

Today the negroes of Brazil have, if anything, more rights than the negroes of the United States. They are proportionately far greater in number, although the white race is said to be increasing more rapidly than the colored. This is so in the United States. In 1850 the proportion of colored people in our country was a little over 15 per cent. In 1880 it had fallen to about 13 per cent, while in 1910 it was a little more than 10 per cent. We had then over 9,000,000 people with more or less African blood in their veins, whereas Brazil, with less than one-fifth of our population, had over 5,000,000 Of these more than one-third were pure negroes, and that is probably the proportion among the colored people of the Brazil of today. The fewest are now to be found right on the equator, while the most live in the state of Rio de Janeiro, forming a part of the capital city. There are 10 times as many negroes in the state of Rio as in the state of Amazonas.

Going farther north between the equator and Rio de Janeiro we find the black spots of the republic. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the people of these states of Bahia and Pernambuco have a sprinkling of negro blood in their veins. Going south this proportion dwindles, until on the borders of Uruguay the colored man is a rarity.

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Returning to the negro question, Brazil has never had a color line, and there has never been a popular prejudice here against the mixing of the races, although some of the leading whites deny that there is now much intermarriage between the whites and the blacks. Take, for example, Dr. Jose Carlos Rodriguez, the editor of the Journal do Commercio of Rio. He tells me that the whites and blacks do not marry at present, although the tendency of the mulattoes is to marry with the whites. He believes that the race is marrying up instead of down, and that in time the colored man will be lost and his blood will be swallowed up in the white. He says there is no prejudice in Brazil against the negro, although there may be, perhaps, a social one.

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On the coasting steamer in which I came here two-thirds of the passengers were colored, and many of them were better dressed than I. Some were very intelligent and not a few were property owners. I have already spoken of the bishop of Amazonas. I met him one night at a reception of the American minister. His blessedness had a face of mahogany brown. He wore the dress of a cardinal, having a red skull cap on his head and a big ring of office which was covered with a cardinal glove. I see on the streets of Rio colored women wearing gowns that came from Paris and hats of the latest fashion beautifully trimmed. Not a few have diamonds on their fingers and in their ears. Two negro women who sat in front of me in the street car today wore diamond earrings. One had three diamonds in each ear, and the other wore a ring set with two solitaires.

Here in this state of Bahia three-fourths of the population are colored. Nearly everyone you meet on the street shows some trace of negro blood There are many blacks and the Bahia black women are famous for their size I have seen some that weigh 300 pounds. They have a peculiar dress consisting of a long white chemise without sleeves. This is cut low at the neck and the fat satiny arms of je black are exposed. In the neck of th chemise is a lace edging of beautifu design, and through its meshes th black skin shows out. Many of thes women wear gay-colored turbans an not a few have shawls about the wais forming a sort of overskirt. The are often loaded with jewelry. Man of them are barefooted. They are ver straight and frequently go about wit burdens balanced on the tops of the h s. They are good natured and their jolly laughter can be heard a block off.

The most of the colored people I have seen in Brazil seem to be happy. I am told they enjoy play much better than work and that half their lives is devoted to amusements and festivals. In the coffee regions when the harvest is over they bring boughs of the coffee trees to which they have tied paper ribbons of bright color, shouting for their employer to give the signal for the opening of the festival. They are fond of parties and when leaves and branches are hung over the door of a hut you may know that some kind of an entertainment is going on within. They have dances of their own which are accompanied by songs in dialogue and they have popular songs, a sort of a Brazilian ragtime, that go over the country.

The most of them are religious. Many of the priests and preachers have African blood in their veins. The negroes have their own churches everywhere. There are more than 400 colored churches in this city alone. They are fond of the moving picture, show and the circus brings them out en masse.

One of the worst vices of the colored man of Brazil is drunkenness. Liquor is very cheap in this country and sugar-brandy can be bought at such a rate that a day's wages will keep a man drunk for a week. So far there has been no great prohibition movement and the question as to whether a locality shall be wet or dry is not agitated.

I am delighted with the city of Bahia. It has now 250,000 inhabitants and it is rapidly growing. The city is one of the oldest on the American continent. It was founded in 1549, only 57 years after the discovery of America, and it was the capital of Brazil for 200 years. At present it is the capital of the state of Bahia and one of the chief commercial ports of the republic. Bahia has 700 miles of coast line and it has an area about five times that of Kentucky. A great part of the state is mountainous, and much of it is more than 2000 feet above the level of the sea and is consequently healthy. The country produces great quantities of tobacco, coffee, sugar and cotton. It is the Cuba of Brazil as far as tobacco is concerned, yielding something like 80,000,000 pounds and as much as 2600 pounds to the acre. As to cotton it grows wild in Bahia and sugar will grow anywhere. There are cotton and sugar mills in different parts of the state.

The city of Bahia has an excellent harbor. It is known as the Bay of All the Saints. The town stands on a high bluff lining the shore. Its houses are of three or four stories and their walls as you look at them from the sea, make you think of pigeon houses, the windows in the distance looking like holes. The business section is close to the harbor, the chief residences are on the heights, the city running far back into the country. Bahia is imposing as viewed from the sea. Palm trees stand here and there among the houses, which seem to rise in tiers up from the docks. The streets along the river are paved with asphalt. Some of them have walls of blue tiles which shine under the rays of the sun. The custom house officers are colored. The policemen are colored. They are dressed in blue suits and walk with a strut. It seems strange to hear negroes talk Portuguese.

The market house of Bahia came from the United States. It was ordered for Buenos Aires, but bought by Bahia. It is a great building of glass and steel, standing in the lower town close to the sea. It covers two or three acres and it is filled with iron cages and stalls beautifully finished. Each stall is a shop. The market is filled with vegetables and meats and merchandise of every description. There is no cold storage plant connected with it and all meat must be sold the day that it is killed. Some does not keep throughout the day, and as a result the prices go down as the clock goes around. You can buy a tenderloin steak at 3 o'clock for about one-third of its cost at noon. Most of the market men and market women are colored and the porters are blacks, who carry their produce around on their heads.

Another American product is the elevator that carries one up to the bluff. Its tower is made of American steel and the motive power is electricity. There are also electric railways between the two sections. The latter wind their way up

the hills. They pass many fine houses and then go on into the new residential district, where there are buildings some of which cost as much as $150,000. Many of them are of stone, others are of brick and others are walled with bright colored porcelain tiles as fine as those of a bathroom. Still other buildings are covered with carvings. The lawns are well kept and filled with tropical plants. Some of the houses seem to stand in little gardens of Eden. Everywhere new buildings are going up. The laborers are widening the streets. They are laying down asphalt and putting in sidewalks of tile. Bahia will some time be one of the large cities of South America. It may reach a million inhabitants. Among the new buildings is the state capitol, or rather the old capitol that is being rebuilt. It was almost destroyed during the revolution a few years ago, when it was cannonaded by the federal troops from the harbor. One of the cannon balls went through the tower clock of the municipal building, others damaged the capitol itself.

With all these improvements, it is surprising how the new tramps on the heels of the old. Some of the houses of the lower section have been there for centuries. Mules haul carts side by side with the street cars, and the automobiles fly past lines of negroes carrying goods on their heads. Much of the water of the lower town is still supplied by peddlers. The water is carried on donkeys, each of which has two five-gallon kegs on its back. A keg of water costs 3 cents. The peddler leads the donkey from door to door, and he carries the keg in on his shoulder.

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Race Problem - 1915

South America

Negroes of Brazil

A Street In Bahia

Bahia, Now a Great Brazilian Port, Was for Almost 300 Years the Center of the Slave Trade of the Country; Slavery Was Abolished in 1888.

(Copyright, 1915, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

BAHIA.

FOR almost 300 years Bahia was the center of the slave trade of Brazil. The first negro slave was brought here from Africa in 1583, only ninety-one years after Columbus started out to discover America. Two years later there were more than 14,000 African slaves in the country, and the importations continued off and on until 1860, when British gunboats were stationed in the south Atlantic ocean for the purpose of suppressing the traffic. Nevertheless, ten years later there were still 1,800,000 slaves in Brazil, and in 1885 the number was still more than 1,000,000. The emancipation proclamation of Brazil was issued over ten years before that time, but the abolition of slavery was gradual and it was not until 1888 that it was finally abolished.

At the beginning of the last century Brazil had less than 500,000 whites and something like 1,500,000 negroes. There were also 700,000 Indians. The whites exploited the negroes and the Indians and they had so developed the country that they had a foreign trade of about $10,000,000. At that time 20,000 slaves were being annually imported and 5,000 were sold in the market of Rio de Janeiro. Many of the slaves were the property of the crown and others were attached to the convents. The negro population was employed in every kind of labor, both civil and criminal. It is said that some of the masters played the part of the old Jew, Fagin, in "Oliver Twist." They would send out from twenty to 100 slaves in the morning without their breakfast and compel them to bring in a certain amount of money at night. What they got over that amount belonged to themselves. The builders made each slave bring back with him a stone fit for construction and white mechanics had slaves to carry their tools.

Today the negroes of Brazil have, if anything, more rights than the negroes of the United States. They are proportionately far greater in number, although the white race is said to be increasing more rapidly than the colored. This is so in the United States. In 1850 the proportion of colored people in our country was a little over 15 per cent. In 1880 it had fallen to about 13 per cent, while in 1910 it was a little more than 10 per cent. We had then over 9,000,000 people with more or less African blood in their veins, where as Brazil, with less than one-fifth of our population, had over 5,000,000. Of these more than one-third were pure negroes, and that is probably the proportion among the colored people of the Brazil of today. The fewest are now to be found right on the equator, while the most live in the state of Rio de Janeiro, forming a part of the capital city. There are ten times as many negroes in the state of Rio as in the state of Amazonas.

Going farther north between the equator and Rio de Janeiro we find the black spots of the republic. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the people of these states of Bahia and Pernambuco have a sprinkling of negro blood in their veins. Going south this proportion dwindles, until on the borders of Uruguay the colored man is a rarity

I am told the white race is increasing in all the states, and especially in the warmer ones. The most colored people are found in the places where the slaves were the most numerous and in the cities to which they have emigrated.

Bahia was for a long time the center of the slave trade, not only for South America, but for North America as well. The kidnapers caught their cargoes along the gulf of Guinea and in Portuguese West Africa and ran them across to Brazil. They landed them at Bahia and from there shipped them to the United States and the West Indies. Thousands were smuggled into New Orleans after we had prohibited the slave trade, and they were landed in Cuba and Porto Rico at the same time. It was with one of these importations that the first yellow fever came to Brazil. This was along about 1683, just 100 years after the introduction of slavery.

The freeing of the slaves was accomplished after a different method in Brazil from that of the United Stattes. The Brazilians did not require a war to free more than one-third of their people. The first law for the liberty of the colored man went into effect in 1871. It provided that all colored children born in and after 1872 should have the right to purchase their freedom for sums ranging from $450 to $550. In 1885 all negroes over 65 were liberated, and in 1888 the institution of slavery was entirely abolished. In order to bring about this act great agitation was necessary. The campaign for the freeing of the slaves began thirty years before they were given their liberty, and among the agitators were two negroes who ranked there much as Frederick Douglass ranked in the United States. These men were Luiz Gama and Jose do Pattrocinio. Each of them probably was the equal of Douglass, and together they had great weight with the republic. There were also associations inspired by the abolition movement, and Emperor Dom Pedro II encouraged the cause.

Today a large number of the negroes own property. Some of them have bought this with their earnings; others were given small allotments of land by their masters. Many of them make money as mechanics, and a few have found a place in the professions as lawyers, doctors and editors. Not long ago the Bishop of Amazonas, a territory about one-fifth the size of the United States, was a colored man, and the chief editor of the most popular newspaper of Rio had African blood in his veins.

At first the freeing of the negroes disorganized all kinds of industries. The supply of free labor was inadequate, and the slaves at first did little but loaf. They came to the cities, and it was only when they found they could not obtain food without working for it that they drifted back to the farms. For a time many plantations had to be abandoned for lack of labor, and not far from the city of Rio de Janeiro there are still large estates which have become jungles, although during slavery days they were producing large crops.

The whites are increasing rapidly by immigration and the bulk of the immigrants are going to the south. This increase of the whites in a region where they are already so greatly in the majority will eventually make that part of the republic like our states of the North. Before the European war began immigrants were coming in at the rate of between 100,000 and 200,000 a year, and as soon as the war is over there will be an increase. All of the state governments of Brazil are spending large sums to encourage immigrants. Many of them have immigrant hotels, and not a few have established colonies and do all they can to bring in new blood. The most of the immigrants come from the Southern states of Europe, and chiefly from Italy. More than half the number are Italians, and it is estimated that there are more than 1,000,000 Italians now in the republic.

Many of the immigrants are employed in the coffee plantations, not a few are in colonies, and many are making money. I have statements from the government which show that most of the Italian colonists of Sao Paulo, who have been here for twenty years, have incomes of about $2,000, while four have incomes of $5,000 per annum. Three have incomes of more than $10,000, while one has $13,000, and another is the owner of three factories, 500 coffee trees, and has an annual income of $33,000. I am told that the German immigration has been over-estimated, and that the total number of Germans in the country is less than 4,000 all told.

Returning to the negro question, Brazil has never had a color line, and there has never been a popular prejudice here against the mixing of the races, although some of the leading whites deny that there is now much intermarriage between the whites and the blacks. Take, for instance, Dr. Jose Carlos Rodriguez, the editor of the Journal do Commercio of Rio. He tells me that the whites and blacks do not marry at present, although the tendency of the mulattoes is to marry with the whites. He believes that the race is marrying up instead of down, and that in time the colored man will be lost and his blood will be swallowed up in the white. He says there is no prejudice in Brazil against the negro, although there may be, perhaps, a social one.

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NO COLOR LINE IN BRAZIL

COUNTRY MELTING POT FOR BLACKS, WHITES AND INDIAN.

(The Chicago Evening Post, June 4.)

It certainly is a great eye-opened to white people who come here from our southern states to see how this mixture of races is encouraged. There is no color line in Brazil. All men and women are judged by their earning capacity, irrespective of color. Moreover, instead of branding one "Colored" because he is one-eighth black—as is customary in the southern states of North America—the reverse system is used. One who has an eighth or one-sixteenth part white blood is branded as "white."

But notwithstanding the Brazilian system of intermarriage and its apparent good results, the development of the country has been due to Europeans.

Readers who know the Portuguese appreciate thier good qualities of thrift, good nature and apparent ambition.

WHAT BRAZIL OFFERS THE RACE

Three Thousand People Listen to the Ringing Voice of Mr. Newman, the Man Who Travels, at Orchestra Hall Sunday Afternoon.

WEALTH COLLOSAL.

Latin America Is the Land of Promise Offering American Capital Its Greatest Opportunities for Investment. "Courtesy and Justice to All," Is the Republic's Motto.

These men who flee the curse of Jimcrowism for an alien flag represent an economic loss to the Nation:

Plasterers 5	Doctors 2
Mechanics 5	Dentists 3
Carpenters 5	Blacksmiths 4

A large and enthusiastic audience, listening to Mr. Newman, the famous traveler, as he lectured on "Brazil" Sunday at Orchestra Hall. Moving pictures of untold beauty, giving views of wonderful tropical skies, rivers, mountains and sea, and the fabulous wealth of its natural resources added to a brilliant story without an equal.

The effort to awake the slumbering American to the great possibilities of the vast and growing republic that lie south of us is the aim of a well directed movement in the interest of greater America.

After following the lecturer with his gorgeous pictures that are magnificent beyond description, our attention is sharply called to sociological conditions south of the equator.

We are reminded that Brazil, too, had slaves just as they existed in the United States, but in 1848 they were made citizens both in law and fact. Upon the canvas is shown first, the slave with age-worn and hagard, then the later type of progressive people, prosperous, happy and free. We hope that these truths, both relative to wealth and social conditions there, will be sure of recognition by the American people for their incalcuable value. We possess here neither all the wealth or brains of the world. Brazil is a complete refutation of plausibility of southern ethics.

Says the speaker in clear voice, "THERE IS NO COLOR LINE IN BRAZIL. RACES INTERMARRY." If American merchants desire Latin-American commerce they must abolish the color line. Brazil is smarting yet from the slurs and insults her navy received in our ports.

Professional and Artisan Class Leave.

Just before Thanksgiving 25 married men and their wives and one single man left Chicago and sailed from New York for Rio Janeiro and other points in Brazil. Included in occupational lines there were doctor, 2; dentists, 3; chemists, 2; mechanics, 5; planters, 5; carpenters, 5; blacksmiths, 4. This exodus is due to a well considered plan adapted some time previous by professional men and skilled laborers, who have combined themselves together for mutual advancement.

The ruling spirit of the industrial corporations of the United States is absolutely responsible for this shameful condition. A condition without a parallel in our present civilization aside from the United States. The artisan classes in the United States (relating to race members) are excluded or socially ostracized, by opposing forces preventing their full share in the avenues of industrial enterprises. They are taught in schools and colleges trades and professions which afterwards are proven to be wasted energy. The walls of race prejudice are built around them, and guarded by powerful enemies who in Congress have disfranchised the race.

Social Phenomena.

The awakened conscience of these people is surely and truthfully a scientific fact; there must be an outlet to these pent up forces, which hitherto have slumbered. Their double and treble strength in all truthfulness must have an outlet. Nature demonstrates herself in this way under laws of natural forces. Violent forces within the earth cause terrific explosions there, which is true under the social organization. Something must be done to relieve these forces which are daily growing into discontent.

Their advance agent was duly sent to Brazil, where he traveled in the interest of men who have nerve, brain and muscle. He was successful. Employment was secured in advance for those who have gone.

The Final.

Shall Brazil be to the race that long cherished hope that New England offered the British and Dutch persecuted who fled England's cost, because of intolerable conditions there?

Race Problem - 1915

West Indies

MARTIAL LAW IS DECLARED BY CAPERTON

Adver[illegible] Foreign Influence N[illegible]ssitates Stronger Measures in Haiti

adverliser 9-5-15

WILL CONTROL SITUATON

Antonomy of Bankrupt Island to Be Preserved by Americans

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4.—Foreign influences in Haiti, working to block plans of the United States to pacify the republic and rehabilitate its finances under American supervision, have made it necessary to declare martial law in Port Au Prince, the capital, and practically all but two of the country's open ports.

Rear Admiral Caperton, acting within his general instructions, declared martial law today and explained that his action was taken because of a situation beyond the control of the local government.

For reasons of international policy, the State Department will not disclose any of the information it has received on this subject. There recently have been persistent reports that so marked has been the effect of the activities of foreign agents on members of the Haitien Congres and Government that the State Department found it necessary to hurry its policy of educating the people to an appreciation of the benefits of American financial control with its protection against insistent foreign creditors.

France a Creditor.

France is among the largest of Haiti's creditors, her citizens being said to have about $20,000,000 in Haitien national bonds besides large mercantile and banking interests in the republic. Ambassador Jusserand yesterday assured the State Department French approval of any plans which would result in establishment of a stable and responsible government in Haiti, willing to discharge all proper obligations toward foreign nations.

The State Department did not attempt to initiate its Haitien policy until it had received assurances that President D'Artiguenave could carry it through successfully and command the support of the majority of the Haitien Congress. It was regarded as desirable that the principle of majority control and of the retention of power in the people themselves should be preserved.

However, after the movement was under way and the proposed treaty by which the United States was to act as a protector for Haiti against foreign creditors was ready for submission to the Haitien Congres, opposition developed in unexpected quarters. It is said to have been traced to foreign influences which were rapidly extended. Admiral Caperton, it is assumed, felt the best way to check the anti-American agitation and insure acceptance of the treaty would be to take measures to prevent disorder and menacing expressions against those favoring the American policies.

Will Maintain Order.

It is said by officials that under martial law the navy's functions will be limited to maintenance of order and collections of customs for the present at least. On the other hand, it is expected there will be no further delay in consideration by the Haitien Congress of the treaty. As soon as favorable action has been taken a modus vivendi will be arranged whereby the United States will be empowered immediately to organize a native constabulary under American officers and to regulate the republic's finances.

For administration of the six customs houses already under American control, the Navy Department has sent eleven officers of the pay corps to look after financial affairs under Admiral Capertons' direction.

Solon Menos, the Haitien Minister, asked Secretary Lansing today for an explanation of the seizure of the Haitien's customs house. He said he had a communication from his Government saying that the seizures had caused much excitement among the Haitien people.

Secretary Lansing's reply was not disclosed, but the Minister later stated he "hoped' the explanation of the State Department would be satisfactory.

HAITIENS DEMAND HEARING

NOTED NATIVE EDITOR SAYS U. S. RECEIVERSHIP IS UNFAIR TO HAITI—BRAVE HAITIANS MAKE GAME FIGHT—CHANCEL SAYS SOVEREIGNTY OF HAYTI IS REMOVED.

(Christian Science Monitor, Sept. 18, 1915.)

Ernest Chauvet, editor and proprietor of La Nauvelliste, a newspaper of Port-au-Prince, and a former consular officer in the United States, has addressed a letter to President Wilson in which he pleads that the people of Haiti be heard before the convention which the United States government has prepared is put into effect. Mr. Chauvet says he was sent to the United States unofficially by the government of Haiti. In his communication to the President he alleges that the proposed customs receivership is unfair to Haiti. He acknowledges that the little republic is in urgent need of the help of the United States in establishing conditions which will result in stabilizing government. "The government and the people," he adds, "realize that their custom houses have not been properly administered and wish to effect an arrangement through which its custom houses and its general finances may be conducted by a bank financed by American capital, and, if possible, overseen by representatives of the United States government, but organized under Haitian law, so as to admit service being conducted under the flag of Haiti."

As the treaty is now drawn, he believes, it seriously involves the sovereignty of the republic. He asks the American people and government to see that the objectionable provisions in the convention are altered in fairness to his country.

Haitian Skirmish Report Received.

Washington, Sept. 22, 1915. — Official reports from Rear-Admiral Caperton to the navy department today state that the skirmish between Haitien rebels and United States marines near Gonaives, Haiti, Sunday, resulted in only one casualty for the Haitians and none for the United States troops. Unofficial news reports published earlier had told of much larger casualty list. Rear-Admiral Caperton said the situation in Haiti, was generally much improved. The Haitian Congress meets today to consider ratification of the convention signed last week between the United States and Haiti.

Haitians Agree to Let Rail and Wire Lines Alone.

Washington, Sept. 23.—General Rameau, commanding a force of 500 Haitien natives in the vicinity of Gonaives, after an encounter with American marines who were opening the railway for food supplies, has agreed to stop molesting the railroad town.

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SIX HAITIAN REBELS KILLED.

Washington, Sept. 22—Six Haitien rebels were killed in a fight with American marines, Admiral Caperton today cabled the navy department. There were no American casualties. Fifty "cacos" rebels tried to prevent opening of the railroad outside Gonaives and fired upon the marines from barricades across the track.

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Haitians to Allow Food.

(Springfield Republican, Sept 24.)

Gen Rameau comanding a force of 500 Haitian natives in the vicinity of Gonaives, after an ecounter with American marines, who were opening the railway for food supplies, has agreed to stop molesting the railroad and telegraph lines and permit food supplies to reach the town. Maj Smedley D. Butler, with 50 marines and sailors, left Gonaives Tuesday morning for Poteau. About half a mile from town the column was fired upon from the bushes. Firing occurred at two other points during the advance. No firing was done by the American forces until they had been fired upon. One Haitian was killed. There were no casualties to the American forces. Maj. Butler held a parley with Gen. Rameau, who agreed to withdraw his forces from the neighborhood of Gonaives and give assurances that they would not further interfere with food supplies or injure railroad or telegraph lines.

ENDANGER PEACE OF WORLD.

Conflicts of Races the Great Question Which Statesmanship or War Must Settle.

Mr. G. H. Lepper, in the Empire Review (London), apprehends that the purely white races of Europe, with their kinsmen by blood in North and South America, Australia and parts of Africa, will before long find themselves confronted by three most difficult racial problems, all of which must be solved by statemanship if serious conflict that may stagger civilization are to be averted. These problems are as follows: The first is the relationship between white and yellow races in the Pacific, including, of course, the claims of Japan to a front place in the comity of nations. Then there is the position of Indians in the British empire; a many-sided question. Thirdly, the relations between whites and Negroes both in Africa and in the New World are so far from being regulated as to threaten a variety of complications bristling with peril.

A difficulty has to be solved in British Columbia, where stringent restrictions on Indian immigration are in force. There is much to be said in favor of the writer's contention that the time has come for a definite demarcation of territorial reserves.

DR. DUBOIS MAKES WISE SUGGESTION TO WILSON

The following letter is written by Oswald Garrison Villard from Washington, D. C., to the *New York Evening Post* in which is embodied a wise suggestion concerning a commission to look into Haitian affairs which Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, editor of *The Crisis*, has laid before President Wilson.

The letter:

(Special Correspondence of The Evening Post.)

Washington, Aug. 6.—A problem of magnitude and vast difficulty confronts the United States in Hayti—one that would loom up large indeed were it not dwarfed by the other enormous difficulties confronting the United States in its foreign relations. What shall be the policy for this Government to pursue? Deliberate annexation is, of course, unthinkable, for that would mean a complete reversal of our policy and giving the lie to President Wilson's Mobile speech, in which he assured the South and Central Americans that we were without land-hunger, a position that he has since reiterated, and the truthfulness of which he has demonstrated by his Mexican policy. Shall we then undertake to do in Hayti what we have done in Nicaragua, that is set up a government, keep it alive by the presence of American bayonets, and make a treaty with it, that is with ourselves, giving us, from the Nicaraguan point of view, most dangerous rights and privileges? Or shall we try another tack by friendly co-operation with the people themselves put an end to the present disturbances, and then help the Haytians to build from the bottom up on lasting and stable foundations? Finally there is a fourth alternative, that of simply setting up a new government and then going our way again.

Thus far, it may be taken for granted, this Administration has not had time to formulate and adopt a policy in regard to this politically unhappy island. The conditions are said in official circles to be much worse than it is yet understood. The recent terrible crimes, culminating in the lynching of the President, are merely part of a long series in which the butchery has been great. There is to-day no Government whatever with which to treat. The people in the cities are starving because the abundant provisions in the interior of the island are not being brought in by the peasants, who are afraid of being murdered and robbed when they reach the cities. The cities are the hotbeds of revolution, because there are the customs receipts, and these are financial revolutions in large degree. There are, for instance, no such land problems as have underlain the revolutions in Mexico. Until recently the peasantry in Hayti has been exceptionally contented, and, in the main, quite indifferent to the sporadic disturbances in the cities. American

tourists have passed from one end of the island to the other without interference, but now the natives are beginning to suffer by reason of their inability to market their crops, and the complete breakdown of law and order in the coastwise cities. Hence the first duty of the American Government is to establish some kind of de facto rule, and towards this Admiral Caperton appears to have been moving with skill and judgment in a task all the more delicate because of the danger of being misunderstood by the bulk of the people, of whom only a small portion can read or write.

The Next Step.

There are no indications as yet as to the policy that this Government will pursue as soon as a Haytian Government is constituted. Even that Government, it is ackonwledged, will in no sense be represetative, but it will be the best that can be created in so great a hurry as is necessary, unless the whole country is to fall into anarchy. There are some officials who feel that the next step is the Nicaraguan one, that we should make a treaty with this Government by which we gain the right to uphold it and the right to administer customs funds and all expenditures of the Government, without which, they claim, nothing far-reaching can be accomplished. They point out that in Santo Domingo we have not been more successful in suppressing revolutions than we have because we did not administer the Government's expenditures.

The dangers of this policy are obvious. Once you have taken over the control of a country through the control of its finances, it will be very hard to let go. There will be many American officials administering those finances whose mere holding of the jobs will make them throw their influence against ever turning fiscal matters back to the Haytians, while a jingo Administration in Washington could easily take advantage of the favorable situation in which it is thus placed to take over the whole government. In other words, complete fiscal guardianship endangers the independence of the island, in the event of another party and of an aggressive jingo President in Washington.

An Alternative Suggestion.

Of the other alternatives, it would certainly be a mistake to leave the island altogether as soon as the government now to be created is in a position to last for a few months. But what is needed is not an approach to the problem through diplomats and military and naval officers, who see only the political side of things, and whose heads are forever full of ideas about the manifest destiny of the United States to hoist its flag all the way from the Rio Grande to the South Pole. An alternative suggestion is the appointment of a commission of three or five Americans with a representative of our colored population among them, to go down to Hayti in a spirit of complete friendliness to study the problem with a social as opposed to a political point of view.

Such a commission could examine the facts and report recommendations. It would, of course, be without administrative authority, but would be of a sufficiently official character to give weight to its findings and to its labors in Hayti. Such a commission should have as its first function the convincing of the people of the republic that the United States means neither to annex nor to re-enslave them, and it would then seek to co-operate with the colored people themselves with the view of convincing them of our disinterestedness and of getting their suggestions as to the best means of insuring the stability of the republic. There is a precedent for a commission of this kind in the one sent to Liberia by President Taft—Liberia is another country which would be deserving of a far-reaching attention from the United States did this country not have its hands full without it. The colored member of the Liberian Commission was Mr. Emmett J. Scott, Booker T. Washington's private secretary. If any such committee were selected there are plenty of excellent colored men from whom the choice could be made—notably, Mr. Washington, himself, Mr. Scott, Major Moton, of Hampton Institute, Major Charles Young, of the regular army, a graduate of West Point, and one of the ablest men of his race, who is now in Liberia as commander of the frontier police force, and United States military attache. As he has served in this capacity in Hayti, he is thoroughly familiar with the problem confronting any one who strives to aid that country.

Some such scheme may be adopted. At the present, however, the Administration is devoting its attention to the setting up of a government which shall, at least have the outward form of a government. As soon as that is done—and this may take months or only a few weeks—there will be time enough, so officials hold, to consider the next step. Meanwhile the commission idea which has been laid before the President by Dr. W. T. B. DuBois, of the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, seems to meet with distinct favor wherever it is broached.

HAITI PRESIDENT LYNCHED BY MOB; BODY MUTILATED

Infuriated Relatives of the 160 Butchered Prisoners Storm French Legation to Get Vilbrun Guillaume.

UNITED STATES ORDERS LANDING OF MARINES

Washington Determined to Re-establish Peace, and

Marines Will Probably Remain in Port au Prince for Sometime.

Port au Prince, July 28.—A mob of infuriated Haitiens today removed Vilbrun Guillaume, president of Haiti, from the French legation, where he took refuge yesterday, and shot him to death in front of the building.

The shooting occurred immediately after the burial of the 160 political prisoners who were massacred in prison yesterday morning at the time of the revolutionary outbreak against President Guillaume.

The mob was composed in very large part of relatives of the victims.

The crowd invaded the French legation and seized Guillaume. M. Girard, the French minister to Haiti, protested vigorously, but he was powerless.

Guillaume was dragged from the protection of the legation. Once in the street the crowd surged around him with imprecations and he was promptly shot to death.

Dragged Body Through Streets.

Even then the anger of the people was not appeased. The body of the president was mutilated and tied to the end of a rope, it was dragged through the streets of the city.

The body of General Oscar today remained unburied before the consulate of the Dominican republic where it had fallen after the governor had faced a firing squad.

The governor took refuge at the Santo Dominican consulate after his unsuccessful defense of the palace, but a mob stormed the building and, dragging him through the street, executed him.

The United States cruiser Washington, commanded by Rear Admiral Caperton, arrived off this port today from Cape Haitien. Preparations are being made to disembark American marines for the protection of the French legation, this action having received the approval of the French minister, M. Girard.

The French cruiser Descartes is expected to arrive tomorrow.

The mutilated body of President Guillaume, after being dragged through the streets of the city, was buried by several women today in a cemetery outside the capital.

The city is now quiet.

AMERICAN MARINES LAND AT PORT AU PRINCE.

Washington, July 28.—American marines were landed today at Port au Prince, Haiti, to protect the lives and property of Americans and other foreigners. Rear Admiral Caperton advised the navy department late tonight that he had sent a force ashore from the cruiser Washington. Rear Admiral Benson, acting secretary of the navy, declined to make the message public, but said, "Admiral Caperton now has the situation in hand."

There was no firing at the marines, although disorder continued in the city. It was assumed a guard had been established at the French legation and at other points to protect foreigners.

To Re-establish Peace.

This was the first step by the United States to re-establish peace in the Haitien republic, and the general belief tonight was that the marines would not be withdrawn until definite arrangements were made for permanent stability.

Admiral Caperton has 400 marines and bluejackets on board the United States steamship Washington, which arrived at Port au Prince today, and the collier Jason, with another hundred, is due tomorrow. Additional forces are available at Guantanamo.

The state department received messages today from Charge d'Affaires Davis telling of the assassination of President Guillaume by a mob which broke into the French legation. This violation of the diplomatic immunity which foreign legations enjoy would be regarded ordinarily as a serious affront, but in view of the absence of an established government and the generally turbulent conditions, the incident probably will not complicate the situation. It however stimulated the American government to take immediate steps to restore order.

Guillaume Feared People.

President Wilson has been giving consideration to the Haitien situation for weeks. Paul Fuller, Jr., sent to investigate conditions there, recently returned with a report showing that it was impossible for him to negotiate a proposed treaty with President Guillaume because of the latter's fears that the populace would rise against him if he signed the pact.

Terms of the proposed treaty were but made public, but it is known the United States attempted to arrange for administration of the customs in a way similar to the American control of customs in the Dominican republic.

It was considered probable in diplomatic quarters tonight that the United States now would insist on its original proposals before withdrawing its forces and to compel an observance of law and order, and also would seek to have incorporated in the treaty a provision somewhat similar to the Platt amendment in the Cuban treaty, whereby the United States would have the right to intervene in the event of disorders. The condition of anarchy which has prevailed for the last few days in Port au Prince has strengthened the conviction of many officials here that the American government must obtain an agreement whereby it will be able to sustain by force of arms any government that eventually is set up.

FURTHER TIME IS GIVEN HAITI TO DISCUSS TREATY

Advertiser 7-27-15

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Haiti's Parliament has been given until September 17 to act on the proposed treaty by which the United States would extend a financial protectorate over the unstable little republic for ten years. In the meantime the American marines will continue to occupy the principal cities of the island to prevent recurrence of anarchy.

Charge Davis of the American legation at Port Au Prince had asked that the treaty draft be approved not later than tonight, when Parliament was scheduled to adjourn. The Haitiens protested against limiting their debate on the proposal and the charge reported today that when they arranged to extend the session of Parliament until September 17 he did not press for immediate action.

Before the proposed convention can become effective it must be ratified by the United States Senate. The executive departments have arranged, however, to resort to a modus vivendi or temporary working arrangements as soon as the Haitien Parliament accepts the draft now before it. Some of the Haitien customs houses already have been taken over by Rear Admiral Caperton, commanding the naval forces, and supervisions of the others will be assumed when the time comes. Then American officers will set apart portions of revenues received for the expenses of the Government, reserve sufficient to meet interest on the foreign debt and see that any remainder is expended on public works or retained in the treasury.

If this arrangement works satisfactorily, officials believe there will be no difficulty in securing prompt ratification of the formal treaty when Congress meets in December.

CUBAN SYMPTOMS.

The brief little dispatch that tells of an uprising among the Negroes at one or two places in interior Cuba, coupled with the interview with ex-President Gomez, who declares that if President Menocal is a patriot he will not seek a re-election next year, has a sinister significance to any student of Cuban conditions. It means that Cuba, which has been so peaceful and prosperous of late that it has kept pretty well out of the limelight, is about to suffer from political activities of the characteristic Cuban brand.

Gomez is "the hope of the Liberals." As the first President of the young republic he fell far short of being a George Washington. He wanted another term, but there were too many scandals and too much dissatisfaction. To have been a candidate would have meant revolution, so he made a virtue of necessity and retired with all the grace possible. Now he virtuously insists that President Menocal shall likewise refuse a second term, though there are no scandals and no dissatisfaction among the intelligent and patriotic Cubans. Of course, he hopes for that delayed second term himself and the Negro uprising is inspired in his interest.

It will be a great pity if Gomez gets support enough to enable him to start the trouble that he is bent on. Under the strong, conservative leadership of President Menocal—who is a graduate of Cornell, by the way—the island has been more orderly and prosperous than ever before. Dust has gathered on the Platt amendment, and the tools of revolution have rusted. Cuba will be very wise if it keeps its present executive right on the safety valve for another term.

Race Problem
West Indies

HAITI AND MEXICO.

Colonel Littleton W. T. Waller, of the United States Marine Corps, was in general command of the American forces that intervened in Haiti. The Colonel has returned to this country, and a few days ago at the Bachelors Barge Club he made the statement that during the intervention the Americans killed 500 Haitains. He also stated that 22 Americans were killed.

The News 4th page

According to accounts, Colonel Waller has the reputation of a "fighting man." It was he, who, while going to the relief of some American forces in the Philippines, lined up eleven natives and shot them on the spot. These natives were acting as his interpreters and guides, and the Colonel claimed that he had caught them in the act of betraying him. For this action he was court-martialed, but was acquitted. He admitted the shooting, and justified himself by saying that he had been ordered by General "Hell-Roaring" Jake Smith to "kill and burn" and make of the Island of Samar "a howling wilderness." The late General Chaffee severely criticized the verdict of acquittal.

3/16/16,

Washington dispatches say that Colonel Waller is in line for promotion, and that his friends are claiming he will get a brigadier generalship if Congress passes the pending bill providing for three brigadiers in the Marine corps. They say he is not an active candidate, and would not be a candidate for an office yet to be created, but as he has been the ranking Colonel in the Marin Corps for years they think it would be extraordinary if he failed to get one of the brigadier generalships, and predict it will not be necessary for him to be a candidate.

The statement made by Colonel Waller as to the number of Haitians killed by the American forces reveals some facts which official Washington, evidently, would prefer not to have made public. The incident stirred Secretary Daniels to say that he had not read the official report of the Colonel, and until he had he would not make any statement dealing extensively with the matter. However, Mr. Daniels went on to speak as follows:

> "I talked with Col. Waller personally when he was here. He had explicit orders not to pursue the Haitian rebels and not to fire except in self-defense. These orders were carried out. We lost twenty-two men in Haiti, most of them killed or wounded from ambush. Naturally Col. Waller could not allow the Haitians to shoot his men with impunity. When shot at they promptly replied, and usually effectively."

Five hundred Haitians and twenty-two Americans killed. These figures given out by the commanding officer of the American forces must be authentic. It is true that in giving them out at his club, probably over a glass of whiskey and soda, there was a temptation for the officer to brag and exaggerate a bit as to "how many niggers we killed"; but in all likelihood his figures are substantially correct.

It is unnecessary to say anything about Colonel Waller; his reputation as a "fighting man" makes any comment uncalled for. Most likely his Haitian campaign will go toward securing for him his brigadier generalship. Neither is it important to say anything about Secretary Daniel's explanation, or rather, his apology. **If the Secretary can construe the killing of 500 Haitians for 22 Americans, a ratio of 25 to 1, to be self-defense, we can only leave the matter to him and his conscience.** What we want to know is how can the American people square the actions of the United States Government in Haiti with its attitude and action in our relations with Mexico?

Haiti was having its internal troubles, that is true; but it was not in any way molesting the United States. More than that, the lives and property of foreigners in the Island Republic were secure and safeguarded. **Yet, the United States Government felt called upon to intervene for the purpose of establishing peace and order.**

On the other hand, Mexico has been in a state of anarchy for four years. Not only has there been no stable government, but Americans and other foreigners living in the country have been killed by the hundreds and their property destroyed. More than hat, American citizens and soldiers have been killed by the dozens long the border; and, to reach the climax, American territory has been invaded, a garrisoned town has been attacked and burned, and American citizens and soldiers slain upon their native soil by the nvaders. **Yet, we hear that no steps must be taken that would violate Mexican sovereignty.**

We do not propose to debate the question as to whether intervention in Haiti will result in good to the people of the Black Republic or not; **the question we raise is, why does this Government declare that it was compelled to intervene in Haiti "for the sake of civilization and humanity, etc., etc.," while in almost the same breath it declares that it would be wrong to do anything that would violate the sovereignty of Mexico?** Why such respect for the sovereignty of Mexico, when the sovereignty of Haiti was violated for lesser reasons? We know that Mexico presents a bigger job than Haiti, but that ought not affect the principle of the thing. **If the cause of "civilization and humanity, etc., etc.," calls for intervention in a troublesome, small, black republic, why does it not call for intervention in a troublesome, big, brown republic? It can't be wrong in one case and right in the other.**

Nothing we have said means that we think this Government ought to intervene in Mexico. **We mean simply to express our opposition to the hypocrisy which puts forward high-sounding altruistic sentiments as an excuse for avoiding a big, difficult task, while it puts forward the same sentiments as an excuse for performing small, easy one.**

CONTROL OF HAITI WILL BE ASSUMED BY UNITED STATES

102 TUSKEGEE

Washington Sends Draft of Treaty to Be Signed by Haiti Giving This Country Control for Ten Years.

Constitution

NO MORE REVOLUTIONS TO BE ALLOWED IN HAITI

9 25 15

United States Proposes to Take Charge of Customs and Administer Finances. Over 2,000 American Marines Already in Haiti.

Port au Prince, Haiti, August 24.—The American government has addressed the government of Haiti, expressing its desire that there be accepted without delay the draft of a convention for ten years under which there shall be established an effective control of Haitien customs as well as administration of finances of the country, under a receiver general and American employees.

Under the terms of the convention, both municipal and rural police are to be natives; under the command, however, of American officers.

The plan includes the arrangement of the debts of Haiti to foreigners and an engagement to cede no Haitien territory to any foreign power except the United States.

The Haitien government is requested to reply not later than noon Wednesday.

Haiti Slow in Replying.

The Haitien government has been slow in replying to the communication of the American government and accordingly the American charge d'affaires handed to the Haitien authorities a note granting a delay until tomorrow noon so that the senate and chamber of deputies might vote on a resolution authorizing the executive power to sign the convention with the United States.

The deputies and senators have been in secret committee meeting to dis-

cuss the matter. They are hostile to the principle involved. It is believed they will vote a resolution authorizing the executive power to sign a treaty, but they doubtless will desire to discuss the terms of the convention before giving it their approval, a measure necessary under the provisions of the Haitien constitution. They declared today that they will decline to accept in its entirety such a convention as is contemplated by the American government without first discussing it.

Under the provisions of the suggested convention dealing with control of the nation's finances all Haitien revenues collected will be set apart for, first, payment of the personnel of the government; second, payment of interest and sinking fund charges of the foreign and domestic debts of the republic, third, to meet expenses under the regular budgets.

Haiti Torn By Revolution.

Haiti, scene of frequent revolutions, has been torn by violent internal dissensions of late and when on July 27, following the execution of 160 political prisoners, President Vilbrun Guillaume was dragged from the French legation in Port au Prince and shot to death. American forces were landed. Disorders then caused the United States navy to take over the administration of affairs in the principal ports. In the course of the operations incident to this, two American bluejackets were killed by Haitiens.

By August 12 normal conditions had been so far restored that the national assembly met and elected Sudre d'Artiguenave president.

Quite recently the northern parts of the island, dissatisfied with the new Haitien government, have shown a disposition to disorderliness and additional marines were landed at Cape Haitien August 18. Still more recent reports that the rebels were organizing an army to attack the American forces on the island led to plans being formed to reinforce the American forces.

NO TIME LIMIT SET BY THE UNITED STATES,

Washington, August 24.—The United States has set no time limit on its request that Haiti approve a convention under which for ten years the American government would administer the finances and supervise the policing of the island republic, it was said here tonight, but it was admitted that Charge Davis, who presented the treaty draft, might have asked, as press dispatches state, that approval be given by noon tomorrow.

While the diplomatic branch of the United States government is working out a plan for future peace in Haiti's domestic life and foreign relations, the navy department is proceeding with preparations for an extended stay of marines on the island. Rear Admiral Caperton, in command of the forces now occupying not only the capital, but most of the principal towns and strategic points, has the situation well in hand with more than 2,000 marines and bluejackets. He is to be reinforced immediately by the armored cruiser Tennessee with a battalion of 350 additional marines.

The Washington administration does not intend to leave Haiti to her own resources again until necessary steps have been taken to prevent a recurrence of events of the last eight years, during which the republic has had eight presidents—has been in constant trouble with her foreign debts and has been unable to guarantee the safety either of her own people or of foreigners.

Time Deemed Opportune.

A high official of the administration explained today that the present period of reconstruction had been deemed the opportune time to press the proposed treaty and that the sole object was to place the Haitien people in charge of their own destinies. It was declared that ten years should suffice to give the islanders a realization of the advantages of permanent honest government free from revolutionary opposition by selfish politicians.

The late President Guillaume was asked to enter into such a treaty as now proposed, but he feared dominant military leaders reported to have threatened to kill him if he acceded. His successor, President Dartiguenave, was elected by congress over the opposition of the revolutionists who had overthrown Guillaume.

These same revolutionists are expected to oppose the convention with the United States and it has been shown that details of the plan would not meet with the approval of most of the members of congress. It is confidently believed, however, that authorization for the signing of a treaty will be forthcoming promptly.

Officials think that only by placing Haiti's finances on a permanent and substantial basis can drastic action by some European creditor be avoided.

MORE ABOUT HAITI'S AMERICAN OCCUPATION

Miss Theodora Holly, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, sub-preceptress of schools and vice president of the local association of teachers, in the following letter concludes her statement concerning the recent occupation of Haytien territory by American troops. The first letter was published in THE AGE of September 16. Miss Holly makes a strong argument for the Haytien people and criticizes severely the alleged actions of some of the American troops.

To the Women of the Negro Race Throughout the United States of America:

This country has need of missionaries, true courageous and devoted. Too many of those that have come here so far have descended to the level of the political and mercenary agitators, instead of trying to raise the people to a higher standard of civic morality and delegation.

Haiti has had to work out her own salvation, poisoned oftener than aided by those whose very profession and mission called them to point her to higher things. In spite of them, a slower teacher, bitter Experience, has been at work enlightening her judgment and forming in her a national conscience that the recent crucial events (the American invasion) seem to have quickened into life. It would be too much to affirm that the nobler ideals that this indicates have equally matured in all the individual consciences that go to the forming of the great national organ.

The presence of the American forces, had they taken and kept a friendly attitude, would have been appreciated and welcomed for the security it gave, just as any reasonable-minded parent would feel grateful to the passing stranger for disarming an unruly and passionate child who, with bloody razor, was blindly mutilating all comrades within his reach.

Gen. Sam's Execution.

The execution of General V. G. Sam was no worse a crime than those committed almost daily by the American mob, and without the provocation that resulted in the execution of the Haitien President.

It is more than probable that the reported to have ordered the massacre of the prisoners—over two hundred in number; that, owing to the anarchy that reigned, their mutilated and bloody corpses had to be borne, uncovered, to their different homes, and hastily prepared for immediate burial; that there was hardly a block that had not its victim in the lot—one can imagine to what pitch of frenzied indignation the relatives and the friends of the victims were worked up.

It is more than probable than the anguinary propensity which dictated the wholesale butchery of the prisoners, and all the other similar instances in the history of this nation is but a direct outcome of our impious white ancestry. The theory is scientifically tenable. Some one has said that self criticism is a sign of progress. It is remarkable that a strong tide of national self-criticism has coincided with the centennial of our existence as a people, as if the bane of the cursed Ethiopic strain having well-nigh spent itself through the four successive generations, we had reached at last a turning-point and were about to begin to be our normal selves.

America's Obligation to Haiti.

What a pity that such a grand and legitimate hope should be thwarted and that the infant nation, scarce freed from the former taint should have again, perhaps, to absorb elements destined to retard her normal evolution! Did not America owe it to herself to be a grand and generous sister to the little Haitien republic? Did she not owe it to herself to lend, as circumstances might require, a guiding and protecting hand instead of bullying and brow-beating the feeble nation?

For however she may choose to ignore it officially, nothing will ever wipe out the historical fact that, while yet in the fetters of slavery, a battalion, nine hundred strong, went forth from the ranks of this people and gave signal aid in the conquest of American Independence.

If America required further incentive to magnanimity could she not recall the conduct of the blacks during the war of secession? During the great civil war when the legions of the South marched against the Northern heroes, the former had no alternative but to leave their fortune, their wives and daughters and helpless infants to the care of the very people, whose social, economic and political degradation they went forth to consolidate, at the cost of their very life-blood.

And that martyr-race, as debonair and guiltless as the Great Martyr of Golgotha, at the peril of their lives, and against their every personal interest, proved faithful to the strange and sacred trust.

For all these reasons, Haiti can not conceive of the powerful American Republic disarming a child-nation, binding its feeble limbs, then, at the point of the bayonet, demanding her fortune and her obedience, and calling it friendliness and philanthropy.

Call it injustice, call it oppression, call it despotism, call it piracy even, but do not call it friendlines, nor term it warfare.

Did America avoid Japan and Germany only to demonstrate her strength on the little African pygmy of the Antilles?

No, that cannot be! Haiti refuses to believe that the American people can knowingly sanction such a deed, or their government perpetrate it, for there must be, within her borders, souls noble enough to feel that:—

Therefore, I send you this appeal, hoping that because of our common origin and destiny, you will endeavor to present the true situation before the public mind, lest the American Eagle forever stain its fair renown, with such a shameful victory.

THEODORA HALLY.

AN APPEAL FROM HAITI TO THE EDITORS AND THEIR TEN MILLION BRETHREN IN THE UNITED STATES

519 Third St., Miami, Fla.
October 21, 1915.

I am using this means to voice an appeal on behalf of your brethren in the Republic of Haiti. Unfortunately, the difference that exists between their language and yours has not allowed of that intimate fellowship and interchange of fraternal countesies and sympathies that might have otherwise existed.

It is to be regretted that in many instances, you have come to look at your brethren of Haiti through the biased vision of the unrelenting critics of our race; and as a consequence, you have unwittingly voiced their criticisms. But it will only be necessary to remind you of the fact that if the "American Negro" were to be judged solely from the statements and criticisms that are unsparingly given publicity throughout the length and breadth of this great commonwealth, you would of all men be the most contemptible. But your brethren in Haiti know better. Being great travellers, and mostly familiar with your language, they have long ago learned to respect and admire and sympathize with you, thanks to the intimate relations, both diplomatically and socially, that it has been their good fortune to entertain, in their island republic, with the elite of their American brethren such as the Hons. E. D. Bassett, John Mercer Langston, and last, but not least, Frederick Douglass. The American Negro gave to Haiti its first Negro bishop, in the person of the Rt. Rev. James Theodore Holly, D. D., LL.D. The Republic of Haiti returned the compliment when she gave to the great American Methodist Episcopal church, her junior bishop in the person of the Rt. Reverend John R. Hurst, D. D., of the Eleventh Episcopal district—that which comprises the state of Florida.

Furthermore, your brethren in Haiti desire that their American cousins should ever remember that it was the immortal and heroic deeds of Toussaint Louverture that fired the eloquence of the Abolitionists, notably Wendell Phillips in America, Bord Buxton and Wilberforce in England, and Abbe Gregoire, in France, thereby facilitating the emancipation of their brethren that are held in bondage throughout the western hemisphere. Last, but not least, they urge their brethren in the United States to remember that the laws of evolution are as immutable as all laws of nature, and that "History repeats itself" when the political troubles incidental to the initial and evolutionary stage of Haiti are compared with those that obtained at precisely similar epochs of the national life of other governments and people.

We of Haiti need your fraternal sympathies and moral support just now. We are having our rights as a free, independent and "sovereign" nation, as guaranteed under the law of nations, entirely ignored by an American expeditionary force. I have been personally requested by the officers and members of "La Ligue Patriotique"—composed of eminent Haitian citizens—to bring to your notice a series of "deliberately unfriendly acts" which the naval and diplomatic representatives of the United States are now perpetrating in their country. It will cause you pain and indignation to learn that your brothers—editors—are being either threatened, fined, imprisoned for editorial criticisms of un-American methods that are being pursued there. One editor was jailed because of his "obstinate and persistent refusal to send, free of charge, to a self-constituted American "Grand Provost," a copy of every issue of his newspaper. The business manager was fined five hundred dollars.

The pressure of professional duties, as well as limited clerical facilities at my disposal make it impossible for me to send an individual letter to every Negro editor or journalist in this country. I am therefore compelled to adopt the course of sending it to the editor of the New York Age, a time-old and personal acquaintance of mine, with the request that he publish the facts that I have submitted, in serial form, with the privilege that each and every Negro organ of publicity be urged, in behalf of their brethren in Haiti, to also reproduce it, seriatim, with a view to arousing and securing the effective and moral support and sympathies of our ten million brethren in the United States in our efforts to maintain, integrally, the administrative and territorial integrity of Haiti—the ultimate refuge of the Negro race.

In conclusion, let our motto and slogan be: "LET US SAVE HAITI," as was aptly suggested by the editor of "The Crisis."

Yours in the bonds of fellowship,
ALONZA P. HOLLY, M. D.
Ex-consul for Haiti to Bana.

NEGRO POPULATION

Of Danish West Indies Presents Complaints Against Governor.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE ENQUIRER.

Copenhagen, May 29.—Hamilton Jackson, a negro representative of the native population in the Danish West Indies, has arrived in Copenhagen and conferred with the Minister of Finance and other Government officials concerning grievances his constituents have against L. C. Helweg-Larsen, present Governor of the islands, and his administration.

Jackson urged that the negroes be permitted to vote, as almost every negro under 36 years of age is now able to read and write. He also urged improvement in the sanitary conditions and changes in the economic situation. The negroes asked through Jackson for the privilege of printing their own newspaper and holding public meetings.

The Minister of Finance gave Jackson an attentive hearing and a state conference has been arranged for a date in June when the Governor, who is now on his way home, will discuss the insular situation with other officials. Jackson and his followers contend that another Governor and a radical reform administration must be provided which is in sympathy with the progressive native population before the unrest can be quieted.

Race Problem – 1915
West Indies

WOODROW WILSON AND HAYTI

With the kindest intentions, we advise President Wilson to defer his taking more drastic action with reference to the internal conditions in Hayti. We do not know, Mr. President, the temper of black people—especially of the younger generation—of your own country. How can you expect your administration, with anything like credit to yourself and your government, to deal with the black Frenchmen of Hayti? Napoleon Bonaparte, with the Latin's traditional lack of color prejudice, sought to intervene and govern Hayti.

New York News 5/15

United States Considering Formation of Entirely New Policy Toward Haiti

Arbuckle 6-28-15

WASHINGTON, June 27.—Turbulent conditions in Haiti have reached such a point that the United States is considering seriously the formation of an entirely new policy toward the little island republic.

Paul Fuller, Jr., sent by President Wilson to Haiti, with plenary powers to negotiate a treaty placing the collection of customs duties under control of the American government, has reported that the Haitien government does not want to enter into such a treaty but has made counter-proposals which are not regarded as likely to lead to a settlement of disturbances on the island.

Before President Wilson left for Cornish he talked at length with Secretary Lansing about the situation and it was determined for the next week or two to await the outcome of the military situation. Officials think the latest, a revolutionary movement under Dr. Bobo, is not strong enough to overthrow the government. President Sam has been recognized by France, Italy and Germany, but the United States has been withholding recognition until some arrangement could be made to stabilize conditions.

French marines have been landed at Cape Haitien and Rear Admiral Caperton is on his way from Vera Cruz with 700 blue jackets and marines on the cruiser Washington to relieve them and preserve order.

Should the revolutionary movement prove unsuccessful, the United States intends to uphold President Sam and accord him recognition if an understanding can be reached on the question of the country's finances. The commission sent recently by President Wilson to Haiti headed by former Governor Fort, it became known today, took a pessimistic view of the situation. It did not specifically recommend armed intervention, but the commissioners gave the impression that it was almost hopeless to expect an orderly government could be established without some drastic action by the United States.

DAVILMAR THEODOR ABDICATES POSITION AS HAITI RULER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Davilmar Theodor has abdicated as president of Haiti and taken refuge on the Dutch steamer Frederick Hendrik, at Port au Prince. The steamer will proceed to Curacao.

Local officials have taken charge of the capital awaiting General Guillaume, leader of the revolutionist army, which is outside the city.

Theodor's abdication is taken to forecast a better condition of Haitian affairs in which the United States will carry out its purpose to send a commission to the republic in an effort to put its finances in condition to satisfy foreign creditors and restore orde-

Colored Men With The West Indians

High Price of Sugar and Molasses an Aid to Barbadoes

Colored men went with the contingent of 100 men from Barbadoes, B. W. I., which has arrived in Egypt, according to Mr. C. F. Haynes, of that island, who, with Mr. H. A. Inniss, from the same place, is staying at the Walker House to-day.

A number of white residents who had received previous training in the volunteer military organizations of the island had gone to the Old Country at their own expense. Several of them had been given good appointments with the Imperial forces.

The 100 men were part of the 1,000 which is the West Indies' contribution to the Empire in this war.

The present high price of sugar and molasses has been a help to Barbadoe's financial condition. Their imports had not suffered, as nine-tenths of their staples came from Canada.

Cleveland Plaindealer

NEGRO BEGS FOR REFORMS

Danish West Indian Reaches Copenhagen With Appeal.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

COPENHAGEN, May 29.—Hamilton Jackson, a negro representative of the native population in the Danish West Indies, has arrived in Copenhagen and conferred with the minister of finance and other government officials concerning grievances his constituents have against L. C. Helweg-Larsen, present governor of the islands and his administration.

Jackson urged the negroes be permitted to vote, as almost every negro under 36 is able now to read and write. He also urged improvement in the sanitary conditions and changes in the economic situation. The negroes asked through Jackson for the privilege of printing their own newspaper and holding public meetings.

The minister of finance gave Jackson an attentive hearing and a state conference has been arranged for a date in June, when the governor, who is now on his way home, will discuss the insular situation with other officials.

New York Sun

12 September 1915

CUBAN NEGROES TALK REVOLT

Riot at Santiago When Leaders Predict Race War.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

HAVANA, Sept. 11.—A small riot occurred to-day at Santiago de Cuba where several negroes made speeches insulting to the white population, particularly women. One of the speakers declared that another race war, more serious than the last, was approaching and that the negroes were prepared this time. It is the general belief here that the influence of the revolt in Hayti is having a bad effect here.

The Minister of Public Instruction has suppressed the English teacherships established during the second American intervention. As the Cuban Congress alone has the power to undertake such a step, protest by the American Minister is expected.

North Adams Mass
Transcript
AUG 20 1915

May Grant Suffrage To Negro Inhabitants

Copenhagen, Aug. 20.—Proposals have recently been made looking to the granting of universal suffrage to the negro population of the Danish West Indies, but no action in the matter will be taken until a report is received from a commission to be appointed to consider the result of universal suffrage among the negro population in the southern states.

The negroes in the Danish West Indies largely outnumber the whites and the granting of the vote to the black is therefore regarded as a proposition of considerable moment. The Danish minister of finance, Dr. Edwa Brandes, is one of the leaders of t movement for opening the electo privilege to the negro.

NEGRO UPRISING IN DANISH WEST INDIES

COPENHAGEN, via London, Nov. 4.—A despatch to the Politiken from St. Thomas says:

"There is a serious Negro uprising in the Danish West Indies. Both the United States and Denmark have been asked to send warships. The insurrection was organized by Jack Hamilton, a Negro leader who recently visited Copenhagen."

Los Angeles Cal
Express

FEAR NEGRO UPRISING

HAVANA, Sept. 16.—The mayor of Regla, on the east shore of Havana harbor, has asked the secretary of the interior for permission to issue rifles to citizens, as a negro uprising is feared. No action has been taken as yet on the request.

THE HAITIAN COMMISSION

We cannot understand why the colored Democrats could not at least bring about the appointment of one colored man on the Haitian Commission. The same crowd of colored people who helped elect Mr. Wilson were continually finding fault with both Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Taft when they were in office, but it should be borne in mind, that Mr. Taft gave the colored people proper recognition when a commission was appointed to visit Liberia.

REV. MONTROSE W. THORNTON, D. D.
1st National Vice-President N. I. E. R. League—Chairman Executive Committee Mass. Branch, Drafted Protest on Haiti.

Guardian 11/27/15

New York Sun

Dr. BOOKER T. WASHINGTON displays moral courage when he urges that the United States assume a protectorate over Hayti, but the dissemination of such a view would not be popular at Port au Prince.

Race Problem – 1915

West Indies

BLACKS IN HAITI MURDERED BY THE WHOLESALE

"Altogether We Have Killed—That Is, We Have Picked Up and Burned OVER THREE HUNDRED DEAD." "Those That Were Left"—Meaning Still Alive—"WERE BAYONETED! Killed! But They Always DIED FIGHTING, Even When They Would Be Wounded and Down" * * * "THEY WOULD RISE UP AND FIRE AT US! And There Were VERY FEW OF THEM WHO WERE PICKED UP WOUNDED!"

DELECTABLE FASTIDIOUSNESS! THINK OF IT! CAN YOU BEAT IT?

Does the Present Carnage of Blood and Death in Europe Afford a Parallel? These BLACK PATRIOTS Struggling to Preserve THEIR LIBERTIES, Their HOMES AND FIRESIDES, Were Too Black—'Twould Dirty Their Fingers—For These Chivalrous (?) Commissioned and Enlisted (White) American Soldiers (?) OFFICERED IN THE MAIN by "SOUTHERN GENTLEMEN, SUH," to Touch, to Extend Them Medical Attention, or Offer Them a Sup of Water, as Wounded, Maimed to Helplessness, They Were Quite at the Mercy of the Invaders of Their Fatherland; and So, "FEW WERE PICKED UP WOUNDED;" 'Twould Be Time Wasted; So Much QUICKER AND EASIER TO "BAYONET" THEM, YOU KNOW. These Head Lines Has the Authority—OF ONE OF THE MURDERERS—Whose Letter to His Father Placed in the Hands of The Defender follows: Read It! But Before Doing So, Ponder Over His Concluding Confessions—"I HAVE SEEN THINGS DONE WHICH I WILL NEVER TELL TO ANYONE, AND HAVE HAD TO DO THINGS WHICH I SHALL NEVER TELL, BECAUSE THEY ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID."

"My Dear Dad: Well, I have been ashore for the last three weeks and so have been unable to answer my letters. We have been having a pretty hard time of it this time, but there was lots of excitement. I suppose you would like to hear about it, so I will tell you. The idea when we went ashore this time was to go into the mountains AND FIX THE CACOS—HAITIANS—FOR ONCE AND FOR ALL. We went out and from the time we got into their country they were sniping constantly. There never was an organized attack and the only really pitched battles were at their forts, and when we did come to one of these NEVER A ONE OF THEM GOT AWAY.

"They always had their forts on top of a hill and we would surround it and advance AND THOSE WHO WERE LEFT WHEN WE GOT INSIDE WERE BAYONETED, BUT THEY ALWAYS DIED FIGHTING. EVEN WHEN THEY WOULD BE WOUNDED AND DOWN WHEN WE CAME CLOSE THEY WOULD RAISE UP AND FIRE AT US, AND THERE WERE VERY FEW OF THEM WHO WERE PICKED UP WOUNDED. It is something of a miracle that no more of our men were killed or wounded, but altogether there have been only four killed and about fifteen wounded. I do not see how they could miss us the way they did, but they seem to

"ALTOGETHER WE HAVE KILLED—THAT IS, WE HAVE PICKED UP AND BURNED—OVER 300 DEAD. The last day we killed 92, including their commander-in-chief at Fort Revere. I guess we would have swept the country but our commanding officer got a radiogram from the department which said, 'Remember the fifth commandment,' so you can see yourself what that means. Sherman was right when he said, 'War is hell.' Of course this is not war, but it has been a fair sample. BUT I HAVE SEEN THINGS DONE WHICH I WILL NEVER TELL TO ANYONE AND HAVE HAD TO DO THINGS WHICH I SHALL NEVER TELL BECAUSE THEY ARE BETTER LEFT UNSAID."

For cool impervious nonchalance and machiavellian hardihood this young whelp's letter is a poser.

With him the burning of THREE HUNDRED DEAD AND DYING MEN was a mere incident, a pastime of a moment, to be spoken of in his letter to "Dear Dad," with no more shame and reluctance than he would have used in telling of the killing and burning of the same number of rats.

But not one word against the boy; not one word. Figs are not gathered from thistles, roses from skunk weeds, nor are streams in the habit of rising above their source.

Regardless of the representations of the government at Washington to the contrary, the presence of its armed forces in Haiti is a CRIME; meaning MURDER, DEVASTATION and RUIN; and unless checked, halted, by the indignant voice of an aroused American conscience, scorning to use the bludgeon, to do the hold-up act, the career of Haiti will have gone its course, reached its journey's end.

In the face of this impending catastrophe—and as sure as God reigns in glory, IT IS IMPENDING, it would seem—blood being thicker than water, NOT out of place, a movement mightily to their credit, if the colored people of the large cities of the nation, should meet in mass assemblages, and by speech, vote, resolution and petition, take steps to head off this premeditated and cut and dried crime: THIS STEALING OF A BLACK REPUBLIC.

It would NOT bt out of place, and mightily to its credit, if Chicago should break the ice, take the lead in such a movement; NOT be out of place, and very much to their credit, if her representative colored men and women, should in the near future, wait upon the Hon. Martin B. Madden, with a request that he seek a Congressional investigation of the REAL aims and intentions of this country in regard to the land of Foussaint L'Oewerture.

We say NONE of these actions would be out of place—NOT ONE OF THEM!

Action in Haiti

(From The Boston Herald.)

No one can complain of any lack of thoroughness on the part of the Wilson administration in handling the Haitien situation. News dispatches this morning indicate that the United States government has taken nearly complete control of the disordered republic, and the chances are that we shall remain in that control for some time to come, as a part of our obligation to civilization under the Monroe doctrine. It is to be hoped that our vigor in Haiti, by comparison with our long-suffering patience in Mexico, will not give rise to the opinion south of the Rio Grande that we are "taking somebody of our size." No doubt President Wilson's tolerance of Mexican abuses has been greatly misinterpreted by the bandits responsible for the continued disorder.

PROTEST HAITIEN CRUELTIES

AMAZING INSULTS, PERSECUTIONS AND CRUELTIES REPORTED BY A NATIVE HAITIAN ARE CAUSE OF PROTEST TO PRES. WILSON BY MASS. NATIONAL INDEPENDENT EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE—LET AMERICANS, ESPECIALLY COLORED AMERICANS EXPOSE THESE ATROCITIES.

The Mass. Branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League through a special committe has sent the following protest to President Wilson on Haiti:—

Hon. Woodrow Wilson:—

Mr. President:—As citizens of these United States, interested in the honor of nations, respectful of the liberties and welfare of all peoples of sovereign states; the National Equal Rights League, in the sense of justice, and in view of the fact that the United States by order of its president have set upon and confiscated the Negro Republic of Haiti, are constrained to challenge such outrageous policy and proceedure, to call the attention of Congress and the American nation to such piracy. As late as November 6th, it was reported through the associated press that marines of our navy, by force of arms and for no reason, under the command of Admiral Caperton, captured Fort Capois, Haiti, is now a matter of record as reported to the Navy Department.

We are strongly convinced that this is only a part of the aggressions intended on the part of this government towards the Haitain Republic and others, with its intervention of force, interference and high handed seizures.

It is a shameful fact that most of the Custom Houses and Arsenals of Haiti have been taken by our naval forces; the President of the Republic is made a prisoner under our Marine guards. Sir, we are informed that women and children are maltreated by our sailors, thousands of "war babies" are expected! news is not allowed to leave the island; noncombatants are shot down in cold blood; Haitain soldiers have been overpowered and disarmed; the press is suppressed by a "Grand Provost" Censor; the national flag of Haiti has been torn down, trampled upon and the American flag hoisted in its stead, besides seizing and dismantling theH aitain gunboat Le Pacifique and dismissing its crew; taking possession of the military posts in Port au Prince and seizing the depots of arms and munitions.

Mr. President, these atrocities, if true, are most revolting, are against this country's policies when dealing with the strong those possessing armies and navies equal to our own. If this aggression on the part of our nation is the outlet of race prejudice against the black Republic; one too that enjoys treaty relations with ourselves in common with all civxilized nations, whose sovereignty we have sworn to respect and protect, it is, we confess, a crime too great for silent indifference. America professes to stand for high ideals, certainly it is not the feeling of her noblest citizens and at most, this invasion of af riendly nation unable to resist, is a violation of national honor and an insult to the glorious standards of patriotism, liberty and freedom, so dear to the hearts of Americans.

Mexico, a part of our own borders, as you well know, for years has been engaged in internal strife. Not only has she murdered her president, destroyed foreign property and large investments of our people, but she has put to death hundreds of American citizens, insulted and shot the nation's flag; yet, through all this government refuses invasion or the seizure of the Mexican givernment.

No Interference with Europe, Why With Haiti?

Europe and Asia at this very moment, as well as the past year, are embraced in a death struggle, the like of which is unparalelled in the world's history. Aside from the atrocities involved, American commerce is and has been attacked, daily the lives of our countrymen, now extending into the hundreds, are unmercifully sacrificed on the high seas of anarchy, and the nation's flag, "Old Glory," is disrespected as never before in its existence. Yet the present government has not dared to invade a foot of this powerful "prepared" barbarians' territory, nor fire a gun at the demon monsters of the seas. "Watchful waiting," polite and friendly notes have been the only course of procedure in these humiliating instances.

Suffering of Haitian People.

Well may we rise in our might of protest against these unjust and unfriendly attacks upon the little Island Republic of Haiti. The wail of innocent children, helpless mothers and heart-broken patriots touches our being at a thousand points and demands better things.

Haiti's troubles were strictly her own, domestic in the extreme, within her own confines. In no respect had she infringed on the rights of this nation, its flag or people. That she should be struck a blow so ignoble, humiliating and infamous by a bigger brother, the champions of "the land of the free and the home of the brave is too terrible to condone and so uncalled for, that the American people when they come in possession of the real and terrible facts, will not sustain it.

The National Independent Equal Rights League voices the feeling of twelve million Negro citizens of this nation whose history has been one of loyalty and heroism; we believe millions more are opposed to this invasion, aggression, seizure and outrage. We ask you, Mr. President, to call a halt to these grievances and right the wrongs already inflicted. That the treaty obligation and rights of Haiti with the United States be respected, withdraw American warships from the friendly waters of Haiti, its marines from its shores and restore its flag to the poles of honor where it rightfully belongs.

Respectfully,
N. I. E. R. L.;
MONTROSE W. THORNTON,
ALLEN W. WHALEY,
GEORGE B. MARGETSON.

THE CUBAN NEGRO.

(BY LESTER A. WALTON)

IN the New York *Sun* of February 27 the following item of news helped to make the sporting page illuminating as well as humorous:

Capt. Cushman A. Rice of Havana, the Cuban sportsman who will become president of the new National Sporting Club of Cuba, arrived in New York last night. When seen at the Army and Navy Club Capt. Rice said:

"Things have stirred a bit since I came away. Jack Johnson landed the day I departed. Now let me say for myself as well as every man of means on the island that a bout between Jack Johnson and Jess Willard will not be tolerated for a single moment.

"The race question is too delicate a subject to ever allow a white man to battle with a Negro. Our interests are too valuable to allow the flames of race feeling to be fanned into a riot. I will leave for Cuba in a day or so and if I find that they propose to pitch a battle ground for the pair I will rally all the powerful interests at my command to fight the proposition.

"We want boxing there, but no will we tolerate mixed bouts ored men can fight it ou heart's content, so can the mixed—well even the Pre frown on that.

"The Cuban Negro do so why should we. He sort of an individual fro of the South. Whites fought side by side agai their ideas of liberty. franchised down there. he votes as often as he ca not unlike a lot of voters I

"But never Johnson and There will be tremendous oppo to that. We don't want any civil war, and that's what it would mean if a black started to muss up a white man. It can't be done with safety. Let Johnson fight McVey or Langford. Let him have a battle royal if he wants, but not the other.

"Our colored man is a superior one. You can tell him to get a move on in the fields; he'll either quit or stick a knife in you. You know they went off into the woods to run a government of their own about three years ago and we had to go out and shoot them. We don't want that. We don't intend to do anything that would put the idea in their heads again."

If the information I have at hand is correct Cuba is a country whose colored population greatly exceeds the white population. If this be true Capt. Cushman A. Rice should be promptly awarded a brass medal for unadulterated nerve and effrontery. Then a ribbon of some color should be handed him for his amusing attempt to let the white Americans know what his ideas are on the Cuban race question and at the same time jolly along the Cubans of darker hue so that they take no offense should they read his acrobatic musings.

Capt. Cushman A. Rice has opened our eyes as to conditions as they exist in Cuba to-day. Not many years ago color prejudice was unknown in that country, but as is invariably the case, the invasion of Americans, with their contagious notions on the color question, has inflamed the whites against the blacks. If a "delicate race question" exists in Cuba to-day it is because white Americans have been mainly responsible in making it so.

Sooner or later Capt. Cushman A. Rice (I am unaware of his birthplace) and others will learn that "the flames of race feeling" are being gradually "fanned into a riot" by those of his inflated mental sort, and that their color line propaganda is responsible for the disastrous results that are inevitable.

Capt. Cushman A. Rice should show consistency by proclaiming in the American press that white and black Cubans should not play on the same baseball teams as they are wont to do, and that the big league teams should not meet the black Cuban players on the diamond as is the case every winter.

Capt. Cushman A. Rice's exhibition of his knowledge of the Negro in the South would savor of comedy were it not that his ignorance was so complete. It is evident that he does not know that thousands of Southern Negroes fought in the Civil War to free this country from the curse of slavery and "for their ideas of liberty."

It is difficult for me to believe that the Cuban Negro's "ideas of liberty" are the same as when he fought against Spain, else he would not, with his numerical strength, tolerate the drawing of the color line in Cuba by Capt. Cushman A. Rice and his species.

Capt. Cushman A. Rice crudely shows his hand and unconsciously points out clearly just why he is opposed to mixed bouts in Cuba when he says: "Our colored man is a superior one. You can tell him to get a move on in the fields; he'll either quit or stick a knife in you. You know they went off into the woods to run a government of their own three years ago and we had to go out and shoot them. *We don't want that. We don't intend to do anything that would put the idea in their heads again.*"

It appears that the best of feeling will prevail in Cuba so long as the Cuban Negro remains docile, quiescent, apathetic, inconspicuous, indifferent to what goes on about him and in humility bows to the desires and opinions of such men as Capt. Cushman A. Rice. But don't let him show a spirit of independence and demand his manhood rights.

That's just where the shoe will pinch!

HAITI HAS NEW PRESIDENT

GEN. DARTIGUMNANE ELECTED

American Forces Stand on Guard—Land Field Pieces and Machine Guns.

Port Au Prince, Haiti, Aug. 12.—Gen. Dartiguenave was today elected president of the Haitian republic by the national assembly. Calm prevails.

Gen. Dartiguenave received a majority of 72 out of the 116 votes cast. The voting for the various presidential candidates was as follows.

Gen. Dartiguenave, 94; Luxembourg Cauvin, 14; Emmanuel Thezan, 4; Dr. Rosalvo Bobo, 3; blanks, 1. Total 116.

In preparation for possible disorders further American forces were landed from the warships in the harbor. The men brought with them field pieces and machine guns, and, together with the forces already on shore, patrolled the streets of the city.

In several sections of the city they brought together sacks of sand to serve as breastworks in case of street fighting.

HAITI ASKS ASSURANCE.

Washington, August 8.—Solon Menos, the Haitien minister, called at the state department, and urged the necessity of giving some definite assurance to the Haitien people that their sovereignty would not be impaired permanently by the American occupation.

While the minister declined to discuss the purpose of his call, it is said he reported that until the local officials are given control of civil affairs in the coast cities there will be continued danger of outbreaks in the interior.

Three Presidential Aspirants.

In addition to Dr. Bobo, it was learned that M. Cauvin, a former government official and lawyer, and possibly president Dartiguenave, of the senate, will be presidential aspirants when parliament meets tomorrow to elect an executive.

Secretary Lansing conferred later with Rear Admiral Benson, Acting Secretary of the Navy, and word was sent to Rear Admiral Caperton, expressing the solicitude of the state department that no force be used unless absolutely necessary to preserve order, and that there should be no further occupation of the republic than was necessary to keep peace.

Resisted Order to Disarm.

It was said that the two Haitiens killed Friday by marines were resisting the order to disarm all natives not enrolled in the Haitien army.

Order Prevails in Port Au Prince.

Port au Prince, Aug. 7.—Quiet prevails here today following the occupation by the American naval forces yesterday of the office of the port and the national palace for the purpose of maintaining and safeguarding life and property.

AMERICAN OCCUPATION OF HAITI.

(Washington Post.)

Washington, August 9, 1915.—Rear Admiral Caperton, commanding the American naval forces in Haiti, reported last night that he had taken over the administration of the customs office at Cape Haitien, and had placed Paymaster Charles Morris, of the cruiser Washington, temporarily in charge. No mention was made of the reported seizure of the customs office at Port au Prince.

There was an apparent disposition among the natives to support the city government being reorganized by Admiral Caperton.

Island Generally Quiet.

Arrival of the Haitian gunboat Nord Alexis at Port au Prince with 800 disarmed Haitian soldiers was reported. The soldiers came from outlying districts to be escorted by American marines to their homes after pledging themselves to peace.

Election of President Deferred.

Port au Prince, Aug. 8.—The election of a president of the republic to take the place of Gen. Vilbrun Guillamue, who was removed from the French legation by a mob of Haitians July 23 and shot to death, was postponed today for an indefinite period. The lection was to have taken place today.

The American naval forces today at Croix-des-Bouquets, near Port au Prince, repressed some disorder on the part of a band of brigands. The chief of the band was taken prisoner and placed on board the United States cruiser Washington.

Gen. Bobo, the northern revolutionist, has arrived at Port au Prince, renounced his pretensions to executive power and ordered his soldiers disarmed and sent home. He has assured Admiral Caperton he will cooperate in efforts to restore order.

Will Abide by Decision.

Bobo is a candidate for the presidency, but has agreed to abide by the choice of the congress. Similar assurances have been given by Mr. Bourand, another presidential aspirant.

Secretary Lansing yesterday explained the occupation of Haiti's custom houses. "The custom houses are being supervised by American authority," said he, "because a state of anarchy exists in the country. It is necessary that we should see to it that the customs revenues do not get where they do not belong."

Plans for Permanent Peace.

No decision has been reached by this government as to any representations to be made to Haiti. Nothing will be done until a new government is established. Then an understanding will be sought to assure continuation of peace. This will necessitate adjustment of the financial affairs of the republic, and the United States hopes to see a government established which will negotiate a treaty whereby the United States could guarantee the administration of the Haitian government.

The marine corps artillery organization now stationed at Annapolis, consisting of 350 men and 12 field guns, it was learned yesterday, is under orders to hold itself in readiness for service in Haiti. Whether other marine corps stations have received similar instructions cannot be learned, but it is evident that the sending o marines to Haiti is not yet ended.

U. S. Gives No Recognition Yet.

August 12, 1915.—Recognition by the United States of the government in Haiti to be set up by president Dartiguenave, elected yesterday by the national assembly, will not be considered until the new executive has demonstrated his ability to guarantee the maintenance of peace, the security of life and property and adjustment of outstanding foreign indebtedness. In the meantime, American naval forces under Rear-Admiral Caperton will remain in control of the situation on the islands.

Almost nothing is known in Washington of the personality of President Dartiguenave. Dr. Resolvo Bobo successful revolutionist and the leading defeated candidate, is deseribed as a traveled, cultured man, having received the degree of doctor of law and medicine in a French university. He is a former cabinet minister and served as acting minister of foreign affairs. He is said to have promised to abide by the results of the election and is expected to accept yesterday's result as binding.

ALL PORTS OF HAITI UNDER U. S. CONTROL

Washington, September 15.—All open customs ports in Haiti now are under United States control. Rear Admiral Caperton telegraphed today that this was accomplished when the cruiser Sacramento, with marines, occupied Jamrel and LeGayes yesterday.

Race Problem - 1915

West Indies

HELPING OUT HAYTI

IT is very gratifying to learn that a treaty has been signed with Hayti which will enable us to help that unhappy republic out of its difficulties. The treaty has not been published in detail, but is understood to provide for an American administration of the finances sufficient to prevent peculation and safeguard the interests of the Haytian people. Order is to be maintained by a native constabulary under American officers. This regime is to last for ten years, but may be extended at the request of either signatory.

A similar arrangement for the Dominican half of the island has worked wonders in restoring the financial credit of that republic in spite of the attempt of our late Secretary of State to use the offices as rewards for "good Democrats." The Haytian half of the island is in still greater need of reform, but the task is not an impossible one. Our marines have restored order and President D'Artiguenave, former President of the Chamber of Deputies, has received official recognition by a salute of twenty-one guns.

We hope that the Senate will ratify the Haytian treaty without quibble or delay. Prompt and loyal support of the administration is necessary if the policy is to start in with the best prospects for success.

STRAIT-JACKETING HAITI

THE SHORT AND ABRUPT manner of the Wilson Administration toward the Republic of Haiti, it is remarked, indicates that, however much we may depend on moral suasion in the case of adolescent Mexico, small boy Haiti is evidently going to receive, if not corporal punishment, at least the strictest sort of discipline. Altho in the main the proposed "protectorate" receives the enthusiastic approval of our editors, a few critics, among them the New York *Evening Post*, find our action a bit discourteous, and rebuke us when the new President is "hardly warm in his chair," for notifying him "that he must sign the convention instanter," and declares this "more like bullying than helping." But other editors, waiving the abruptness of our demands as an unpleasant necessity, see only beneficial results to be gained. It is pointed out that a financial protectorate over the turbulent country, with a strong hand on the customs-revenues, will result practically in the extermination of grafting revolutionists. A similar scheme has worked well in Santo Domingo, and now, as the New York *Telegraph* reflects, "Haiti will enjoy the same advantage, and her people will be the principal beneficiaries. Only the politicians will suffer." "There is no likelihood that the plan will be defeated," *The Times* asserts confidently, and points out with satisfaction that even Middle-Western members of Congress will find no opportunity here to suspect "that 'Wall Street' can derive profits from it." That our Government "has done well, both for Haiti and the United States," is the opinion of the Boston *Transcript*, to which a fourth New York paper, *The World*, adds that it is a duty "the United States has long faced. It is not a pleasant task, but evidently it must be performed. And there is nobody else to do it."

The convention submitted to the new Haitian President, General Dartiguenave, and his Council, as summarized in the press, provides principally that:

"1. A Haitian receivership of customs shall be established, under American control, which shall include an American Administrator-General of Customs and an American collector in charge of the customs-house at each port.

"2. A native Haitian rural and civic constabulary is to be established under the command of American officers.

"3. Through its customs-control the United States shall govern absolutely all expenditure of public moneys to the extent necessary to prevent speculation and safeguard the interests of the American people.

"4. Haiti shall cede no portion of her territory to any nation but the United States.

"5. All revolutionary forces are to be disarmed.

"6. The convention is to run for a period of ten years.

"The American demands further recite that revenues collected by Americans temporarily in charge shall be distributed in the following order of precedence:

"1. To pay American employees.

"2. To settle Haitian bonds.

"3. To defray expenditures for which appropriations are made under the budget."

The attitude of the Government is made explicit in the public statement authorized by Secretary Lansing, in which he refers to the arrangement as a "protectorate":

"We have only one purpose—that is, to help the Haitian people and prevent them from being exploited by irresponsible revolutionists. These are not properly revolutions; they are unorganized enterprises which invoke no question of principle, and they are ruining the country. While they are in progress people are starving in the streets of Port au Prince because they can not secure the supplies of food which abound in the country. Things have been going from bad to worse, and something must be done.

"The United States Government has no purpose of aggression and is entirely disinterested in promoting this protectorate. We have not even asked for Mole-Saint-Nicholas. The arrangement, of course, would have to be considered by the United States Senate for approval."

Washington, we are informed in a New York *Times* dispatch, takes two exceptions to the convention: "in responsible circles" it is believed that the document should incorporate some form of the "Platt amendment," and should provide for a longer protectorate than ten years. In the latter regard, according to this writer—

"Students of the Haitian situation are of the opinion that the convention should run for at least a generation, and there are some Haitians who feel that fifty years would be a better period for the American protectorate."

Meanwhile, in Haiti itself much discontent with the proposals is manifest, but, we are told, this is mainly among the followers of General Bobo and others who reveal revolutionary tendencies. With the financial provisions the merchant population are more than pleased, beholding the prospect of some domestic stability ahead. As to the other provisions, one Joseph Justin, a highly educated Haitian, of considerable prominence here as well as in his own country, may be quoted in his declaration that there is "only one hope of bringing Haiti in line with the progress of civilization—and that is by obtaining the protection and aid of the United States."

AN UNFORTUNATE LETTER

SECRETARY BRYAN has been in conference with ex-Governor Fort and our Minister to Hayti about the failure of the Fort Commission to convince Hayti's President that his country's interests would be served by the establishment of such a fiscal protectorate as has existed for several years, by treaty agreement, in Santo Domingo. That failure was unfortunate and even deplorable. If the proposed agreement had been reached, the United States would have had a naval base at the port of Mole St. Nicholas, near the path of four-fifths of the Panama Canal traffic, and Hayti, with her customs receipts under guard, might have escaped the torment of chronic revolution. Her immediate necessities would have been satisfied by a New York loan, and eventually her debts would have been paid.

But her Government turned away from the Fort Commission and sought the aid of France. This was promptly given, with a loan and that formal recognition of the new President which the Government at Washington had withheld. Germany and Italy hastened to join France in the expression of international courtesy which gave European powers a dominating influence in the republic.

Has it ever occurred to Mr. Bryan that this rejection of our Government's proposition may have been due to the memorable letter which he sent to Mr. Vick, the American Receiver of Customs in Santo Domingo, and to the character of our recent diplomatic representation in the adjoining republic of Santo Domingo? We quote once more a part of that letter, which was published during the investigation of charges against Minister Sullivan:

> Can you let me know what positions you have at your disposal with which to reward deserving Democrats? Whenever you desire a suggestion from me, in regard to a man for any place there, call on me. You have had enough experience in politics to know how valuable workers are when the campaign is on, and how difficult it is to find suitable rewards for all the deserving.

Mr. Vick removed none of his fourteen faithful and competent American subordinates—whose salaries were paid by the Dominican Government—but after his resignation several of them were displaced by men from Mr. Bryan's state.

Is it not conceivable that disgust and hostility excited by this indication of our State Department's policy concerning the administration of fiscal protectorates led Hayti's President to turn his back to the Fort Commission and look for help elsewhere?

ST. LOUIS GLOBE DEMOCRAT
AUG 1 1915

OUR WHITE MAN'S BURDEN.

That each nation is sovereign is the necessary assumption of international law. But it is often a legal fiction. When nations have proven their utter incapacity to preserve the peace, protect the lives and property of aliens and discharge their international obligations, it has become necessary to establish a guardianship of them. This has happened in India, in China, in Turkey, in Cuba and in the Dominican Republic. Our country has acted at divers times as big brother for certain South and Central American countries and has treated Mexico in a fashion first-rate nations would not endure. The situation in Haiti has become so chaotic as to force the conclusion that we must take up the white man's burden there. Already our marines have been landed to establish order. This has happened before. In fact, ever since President Lincoln recognized Haiti, we have had more or less trouble with it. It has not had a really great man since Toussaint L'Overture, "the black Napoleon," a full-blood negro who ranks with the towering figures of history in force, wisdom and humanity. There have been frequent revolutions, repudiation of debts, cruel treatment of aliens and a general disregard of international amenities. Last year both American and German marines landed to protect foreigners. Great Britain collected $62,000 indemnity after sending an ultimatum, and Germany and France demanded control of the customs. This country recognized three different presidents during the year, Orestes, Zamor and Theodor, although the presidential term is seven years.

The world naturally looks to the United States to compel Haiti to comply with international obligations. As early as last December we began diplomatic negotiations for the supervision of Haitian finances. These must be pressed. The government in nominal control, helpless in such a crisis, will consent to our proposal if it is wise. That it will be for the best interest of both the people and the Government of Haiti, in the long run, may safely be predicted, after our similar achievements elsewhere. Only those who profit from embezzlement, arson, murder and rapine will be injured by our taking charge. It is regrettable that any of our marines were killed in landing, but it was in the performance of a duty we cannot well shirk, even if we felt so disposed.

HAITI'S DEFIANCE OF AMERICA.

Advertiser 8-31-15

The readers of The Advertiser will have no difficulty in recalling the features of the present situation in Haiti. The governor of a province had thirty political prisoners shot before a dead wall. The revolutionists, thereupon, inaugurated a reign of terror and bloodshed. The offending governor was killed and many other people were shot down.

The president of the republic rushed to the protection of the French legation. A hurried call was sent to the United States for a war vessel and one was sent steaming to Port Au-Prince. Three hours before it arrived the mob broke into the legation, killed the president and cut his body into small pieces. A force of American marines, which was landed, had to fight their way through the town. Two of the Americans and a dozen or more Haitiens were killed.

The Haitiens retired, in large numbers, to the country, and they remained in opposition to American occupation. The Haitien agitators have been industriously at work to arouse an attack on the Americans. In one of the pamphlets there is this paragraph:

"Do as the Mexicans did at Vera Cruz. Expel the Americans. Annexation means slavery."

Through Latin-American countries, this same claim has been widely made—the Mexicans expelled the Americans from Vera Cruz. We have now in Haiti a small force of American marines; the people of that ignorant nation are told that the Americans are weak, but domineering.

If we ever had any right in Vera Cruz, we should never have gotten out until the American army and navy made itself respected. But get out we did. If we were to get out in that manner, why did we ever go in? In capturing Vera Cruz twenty-six American sailors and marines fell under the American colors; if they were fighting for American honor, and American prestige, that prestige and that honor should have been maintained. The solemn sacrifice of twenty-six American lives should have had its recompense, in a recognition of the power and prestige of the American Republic, forced from the Mexican people, who exacted that sacrifice and gave no compensation for it.

But we shipped the bodies of the dead Americans back to the country for which they died, and marched our men back to their ships. Is it any wonder that the black Haitiens are urged to "expel the Americans as the Mexicans did?" We were supposed to be in Vera Cruz and in Port Au-Prince to maintain the Monroe Doctrine. We trust that it will be maintained in Haiti, for it certainly was not in Mexico.

For Haiti, this country does not care a thrip. It does not want that God forsaken, murderous country under any terms. Haiti means nothing to this country; but the prestige and the honor of the American Republic means much. It cannot be maintained unless full reparation is made for every American killed, and unless we force respect from a people who are given over to lawlessness and violence.

A REPUBLIC BLACK AND TRAGIC.

Advertiser 7-29-15

The black republic of Haiti has been called an "opera bouffe government." It has appealed to the humor of some American writers, with its barefooted soldiers, its pompous and ignorant generals, its insecure and uncertain presidents, in power today, in jail tomorrow, all resting upon a lazy populace, whose chief industry is revolutions.

But the Haitien government is too ghastly and too tragic to be humorous. It is savagery, mad with power. The people are too primitive and too cruel to have the right of life and death over each other. One cycle of revolution has passed into another; one era of bloodshed and assassination has been merged into still another. The bloody history of Haiti is horrible in its list of assassinated presidents.

In that country, what were once good roads are now but paths overgrown with weeds. The country is desolate, a desolation which is only emphasized by the ruined sugar mills, which were once the promise of a prosperity which was forbidden of fulfillment. The population has accumulated in the few port towns of the unfortunate country, probably because in the height of the periodical outbursts of anarchy, foreign men of war, steaming into the harbor, have been able to quell the maddened passions of the people and prevent further effusion of blood.

The latest chapter is as horrible as any in the sanguinary annals of Haiti. A novelist like Richard Harding Davis, fond of writing of the dramatic and picturesque in the revolutions of the Latin Republics never drew anything in fiction as gruesome as the last revolution in that ill starred country. The officials in power, and who got there by a revolution, learned that another revolution was brewing. They sent their barefooted and ragged soldiers out to round up their political enemies. In Latin American Republics, a political enemy is promptly put in jail; if the conditions demand it, according to the ideas of the governmental officials, he is assassinated.

The Haitien officials rounded up one hundred and sixty political opponents and threw them in jail. The governor of the province conceived a great coup. He led the one hundred and sixty prisoners out and had them shot to death. One of them was a former president, who had until then escaped assassination.

A flame of madness possessed the excitable and ignorant population. The governor took refuge in a foreign legation. The mob broke down the doors, captured the cringing governor and dragged him forth. They left him dead in his own blood in front of the legation door.

His superior officer, President Guillaume, rushed to the French legation pleading for protection. The American consul hurried telegrams to Washington, asking that a warship be rushed to Port Au Prince to save the president and to prevent further loss of blood. The staff of the French consulate managed to hold the mob for a few hours. A wireless message brought news that an American man of war was steaming at full speed to Port Au Prince. Would it arrive in time? The enraged mob was outside the consulate door howling for the blood of the president. Could he be saved?

The warship steamed in the harbor, flying the American flag at 11 o'clock. It was too late. The mob had broken in the doors. They had butchered the president of the country. His body was cut into pieces and the pieces, pierced on pikes, were carried through the streets of the city.

The history of the Haitien Republic has been dark and bloody. It is a blot on the history of the negro race. A hundred years and more the negroes of Haiti have been free and independent. A hundred years after the overthrow of French rule, they are resorting to anarchy and assassination just as they did the first ten years after their independence. The sanguinary facts of Haitien rule cannot be explained away.

Race Problem – 1915
West Indies

Suggests Commission For The Haytians

Guardianship of the Island Republic Offers Serious Problem and It Is Felt by Many at Washington That the Appointment of a Board with Power to Study Conditions and Make Recommendations Is Advisable at This Time

(Special Correspondence of The New York Evening Post.)

Washington, August 6.—A problem of magnitude and vast difficulty confronts the United States in Hayti—one that would loom up large indeed were it not dwarfed by the other enormous difficulties confronting the United States in its foreign relations. What shall be the policy for this government to pursue? Deliberate annexation is, of course, unthinkable, for that would mean a complete reversal of our policy and giving the lie to President Wilson's Mobile speech, in which he assured the South and Central Americans that we were without land-hunger, a position that he has since reiterated, and the truthfulness of which he has demonstrated by his Mexican policy. Shall we then undertake to do in Hayti what we have done in Nicaragua, that is set up a government, keep it alive by the presence of American bayonets, and make a treaty with it, that is with ourselves, giving us, from the Nicaraguan point of view, most dangerous rights and privileges? Or shall we try another tack by assuming the "big brother' policy and by friendly co-operation with the people themselves put an end to the present disturbances, and then help the Haytians to build from the bottom up on lasting and stable foundations? Finally there is a fourth alternative, that of simply setting up a new government and then going our way again.

Thus far it may be taken for granted, this Administration has not had time to formulate and adopt a policy in regard to this politically unhappy island. The conditions are said in official circles to be much worse than it is yet understood. The recent terrible crimes, culminating in the lynching of the President, are merely part of a long series in which the butchery has been great. There is today no government whatever with which to treat. The people in the cities are starving because the abundant provisions in the interior of the island are not being brought in by the peasants, who are afraid of being murdered and robbed when they reach the cities. The cities are the hotbeds of revolution because there are the customs receipts, and these are financial revolutions in large degree. There are, for instance, no such land problems as have underlain the revolutions in Mexico. Until recently the peasantry in Hayti has been exceptionally contented, and, in the main, quite indifferent to the sporadic disturbances in the cities. American tourists have passed from one end of the island to the other without interference, but now the natives are beginning to suffer by reason of their inability to market their crops and the complete breakdown of law and order in the coastwise cities. Hence the first duty of the American Government is to establish some kind of de facto rule, and toward this Admiral Caperton appears to have been moving with skill and judgment in a task all the more delicate because of the danger of being misunderstood by the bulk of the people, of whom only a small portion can read or write.

The Next Step

There are no indications as yet as to the policy that this Government will pursue as soon as a Haytian Government is constituted. Even that Government, it is acknowledged, will in no sense be representative, but it will be the best that can be created in so great a hurry as is necessary unless the whole country is to fall into anarchy. There are some officials who feel that the next step is the Nicaraguan one, that we should make a treaty with this Government by which we gain the right to uphold it and the right to administer customs funds and all expenditures of the Government, without which, they claim, nothing far-reaching can be accomplished. They point out that in Santo Domingo we have not been more successful in suppressing revolutions than we have because we did not administer the Government's expenditures.

The dangers of this policy are obvious. Once you have taken over the control of a country through the control of its finances, it will be very hard to let go. There will be many American officials administering those finances whose mere holding of the jobs will make them throw their influence against ever turning fiscal matters back to the Haytians, while a jingo Administration in Washington could easily take advantage of the favorable situation in which it is thus placed to take over the whole government. In other words, complete fiscal guardianship endangers the independence of the island in the event of another party and of an aggressive jingo President in Washington.

An Alternative Suggestion

Of the other alternatives it would certainly be a mistake to leave the island altogether as soon as the government now to be created is in a position to last for a few months. But what is needed is not an approach to the problem through diplomats and military and naval officers who see only the political side of things, and whose heads are forever full of ideas about the manifest destiny of the United States to hoist its flag all the way from the Rio Grande to the South Pole. An alternative suggestion is the appointment of a commission of three or five Americans with a representative of our colored population among them, to go down to Hayti in a spirit of complete friendliness to study the problem with a social as opposed to a political point of view.

Such a commission could examine the facts and report recommendations. It would, of course, be without administrative authority, but would be of a sufficiently official character to give weight to its findings and to its labors in Hayti. Such a commission should have as its first function the convincing of the people of the republic that the United States means neither to annex nor to reenslave them, and it would then seek to co-operate with the colored people themselves with the view of convincing them of our disinterestedness and of getting their suggestions as to the best means of insuring the stability of the republic. There is a precedent for a commission of this kind in the one sent to Liberia by President Taft—Liberia is another country which would be deserving of a far-reaching attention from the United States did this country not have its hands full without it.

The colored member of the Liberian Commission was Mr. Emmett J. Scott, Booker T. Washington's private secretary. If any such committee were selected there are plenty of excellent colored men from whom the choice could be made—notably, Mr. Washington himself, Mr. Scott, Major R. R. Moton, of Hampton Institute, and Major Charles Young, of the regular army, a graduate of West Point, and one of the ablest men of his race, who is now in Liberia as commander of the frontier police force and United States military attache. As he has served in this capacity in Hayti, he is thoroughly familiar with the problem confronting any one who strives to aid that country.

Some such scheme may be adopted. At the present, however, the Administration is devoting its attention to the setting up of a Government which shall at least have the outward form of a Government. As soon as that is done—and this may take months or only a few weeks—there will be time enough,

(over)

so officials hold, to consider the next step. Meanwhile the commission idea, which has been laid before the President by Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, seems to meet with distinct favor wherever it is broached.

CITIZEN

JAN 15 1915

SANTO DOMINGO.

Indianapolis News.

After some time of comparative peace and prosperity, the Dominican republic is again an unwelcome visitor at the American State Department. There is trouble of all sorts in Santo Domingo. The normal state of revolution has returned. Warships and marines have protected foreign interests in the republic, a commission has been sent to investigate the internal finances, and now James D. Phelan, of San Francisco, United States senator-elect from California, has been requested by President Wilson to investigate thoroughly the charges which have been lodged against the American minister in Santo Domingo, James M. Sullivan. It is alleged that Mr. Sullivan took advantage of his official position to obtain government contracts for friends. He has asked the president to order an investigation.

The story of Santo Domingo is like that of Mexico. Discovered by Columbus, it enjoyed at that early day 30 years of feverish, golden prosperity. The second largest island of the Great Antilles, it is surpassed by none of the southern islands in natural resources, in beauty or in climate. The Dominican republic occupies the eastern end of the island, and the Haitien the western. Santo Domingo has an era of 18,000 square miles, which equals the combined territory of New Hampshire and Vermont. Its foreign trade in 1906, shortly after American intervention, amounted to $5,000,000; in 1912 it had reached almost $21,000,000. The population is between 600,000 and 700,000, having increased, during these years of comparative quiet, proportionaetly with the actual wealth of the republic.

Between 1830 and 1840 many American negroes were colonized in Santo Domingo by philanthropic societies. It probably was as a result of this amendment that ,in 1849, the suggestion was made for annexation by the United States, Hayti and Santo Domingo owe their troubles originally to the wretched administration of the Spanish and the French. In Haiti the population more nearly approaches the negroid; in Santo Domingo it is largely Spanish mulatto. The modern history of Santo Domingo, as far as the United States is concerned, begins in 1882, when the negro Heureaux obtained control of the "government." For 17 years—until he was assassinated—he tyrannized over the people, killing, bribing and plundering. Nevertheless, it was during his rule that foreign capital, attracted by the partial respite from revolution, increased amazingly. From 1899 to 1904 Santo Domingo was in the grasp of a number of petty tyrants, half-blood negroes, none of whom had the ability of Heureaux. Conditions became so bad that intervention by some power appeared certain. President Roosevelt, failing to receive indorsement of a formal agreement from the Senate, executed an interim pact with the de facto government, by which an American official was to receive a portion of the customs and thereby satisfy American and other creditors. This led to the ratification in 1907 of an American "receivership." The mulatto population of the republic has enjoyed a period of rest, and the foreign one of protection. Minister Sullivan entered the situation prominently in October, last year, when he got the warring factions to conclude peace. But by July, this year four additional revolutions were in progress. Since that time, although the Dominican foreign finances are in a fairly prosperous condition, the internal government has been in [illegible] disorder.

HAITIENS GET ANOTHER DAY FOR ANSWER

Ministry Threatens to Resign Unless Time Limit Is Extended

8-28-15

WASHINGTON, August 25.—Word came from Port Au Prince today that Charge Davis of the American legation, had extended until tomorrow night the time for action by the Haitien congress on the proposed treaty to establish for ten years an American financial protectorate over the republic.

Noon today had been fixed as the time by which the charge would expect approval of the treaty draft submitted by the United States. The Haitiens protested vigorously, however, against such a limit and the extension was granted. Officials here did not comment on press reports that the congress and ministry threatened to resign if the American government insisted on immediate action.

Secretary Lansing made a statement today explaining the purpose of the United States in proposing and pressing a treaty with Haiti at this time. He said that Washington was acting from disinterested motives to save the republic from ruin through never ending revolutions. The secretary declared there was no foundation for reports that the proposed convention would give the United States a naval base.

Mr. Lansing would not discuss the treaty, but it is known it provides for American agents in charge of the ten customs houses, three of which have already been taken over by Admiral Caperton.

Solon Menos, the Haitien minister, conferred with Mr. Lansing during the day and presented a communication from his government requesting an explanation of certain points in the American proposals. The minister later made it clear that his government does not oppose the attempt of the United States to bring about peace and reconstruction. Riots and uprisings, he explained, were in many cases due to ignorance of the intentions of the United States and a misunderstanding of the presence of American troops.

The Hatien government has been slow in replying to the communication to the American government and consequently the American charge de'affairs, handed to the Hatien authorities a note granting a delay until tomorrow noon so that the Senate and chamber of deputies might vote on a resolution authorizing the executive power to sign the convention with the United States.

The deputies and senators have been in secret committee meeting to discuss the matter. They are hostile to the principle involved. It is believed they will vote a resolution authorizing the executive power to sign a treaty but they doubtless will desire to discuss the terms of the convention before giving it their approval, a measure necessary under the provisons of the Haitien constitution. They declared today that they will decline to accept in its entirety such a convention as is contemplated by the American government without first discussing it. Under the provisions of the suggested convention dealing with control of the nation's finances all Haitien revenues collected will be set apart for, first, payment of the personnel of the government; second, payment of interest and sinking found charges of the foreign and domestic debts of the republic; third, to meet expenses under the regular budgets.

AMERICAN RECOGNITION FOR HAITI GOVERNMENT

Washington, September 17.—Formal recognition has been accorded by the United States to the new government in Haiti, headed by President D'Artiguenave.

Charge Davis of the American legation at Port au Prince, cabled late today that he conveyed notice of recognition to the Haitien government last night. Rear Admiral Caperton, commanding the naval expeditionary force on the island reported that he had exchanged national salutes with the Port au Prince shore batteries and called with his staff on President D'Artiguenave.

This action is in line with the intention of the Washington administration to negotiate a treaty by which the United States will assume a virtual protectorate over Haiti, supervising her financial and police administrations. The treaty is before the Haitien congress and its negotiation could not be completed without recognition of the government.

The treaty cannot become effective until it has been approved by the United States senate. Arrangements already have been made, however, for carrying out its purposes through the naval expedition. Naval officers are handling the customs service and guaranteeing order now, and will continue to do so until a formal protectorate can be set up.

President D'Artiguenave was elected by congress to succeed President Guillaume, taken from the French legation and killed by revolutionists several months ago. He is the ninth executive the republic has had in the last seven years, all of his predecessors having been killed or exiled.

Santo Domingo and Hayti

Senator Phelan, of California, who was commissioned by the President to make an investigation concerning the charges against James M. Sullivan, Minister to Santo Domingo, has submitted a report which says that while Sullivan's acts did not involve moral turpitude he is temperamentally unfitted for a diplomatic office. It is said that the Senator recommends that Sullivan be removed. The latter recently obtained leave of absence on account of ill health, and is on his way from Santo Domingo to Washington. The charges against him related to the transfer of customs funds collected by Receiver Walter W. Vick from one bank to another, and to contracts procured from the Dominican Government by a relative of the Minister. Owing to the quarrel or disagreement, Mr. Vick resigned. The investigation brought to light Secretary Bryan's letter in which he asked Vick to find places for "deserving Democrats" in Santo Domingo's customs service.

In Hayti, where there have been eight presidents in the last seven years, the revolutionists led by Dr. Rosalro Bobo are still striving to overthrow President Guillaume Sam. A few days ago, when there was a battle at Cape Haytien, a French cruiser landed marines at that port for the protection of foreigners. Our Government at once ordered Admiral Caperton to go with his flagship, the armored cruiser "Washington," from Vera Cruz to Cape Haytien, and it was expected that his marines would displace those of France in a peaceful and diplomatic way. Secretary Bryan could not induce President Sam to accept a fiscal protectorate, but France recognized his Government and loaned to it $1,000,000. Germany and Italy also recognized it, altho we had refused to do so. Hayti is in a deplorable condition. Of the eight presidents six were forced out of office and two were assassinated.

NEW YORK WORLD

10 January 1915

Porto Ricans and "Alien Black Races."

To the Editor of The World:

Although perfectly right in his main contentions against the amendment to the new Immigration Bill now pending before the Senate excluding from coming into this country any person of African descent, Mr. Booker T. Washington is wrong when he says in his letter printed in your issue of the 6th inst. that, among others, Porto Ricans could be very well barred under its unjust provisions. The question was settled once for all in 1904 in the case Gonzalez vs. William, when the United States Supreme Court declared unconstitutional the immigration laws as applied to the Porto Ricans by the then Secretary of the Treasury Shaw, and Congress with all its might cannot put one back upon the highest tribunal of the land, its constitutional superior.

If that verdict stands—and it must stand against the powerful will of the legislative branch of the Government—an Afro-Porto Rican could not be molested, upon landing on these shores, by the immigration inspectors, and would be as much subjected to the payment of the head tax as any of his negro brothers from Florida or Alabama. He simply cannot be excluded as the citizen of a country under the American flag.

D. COLLAZO.

New York, Jan. 7.

DENMARK NEGRO UPRISING DENIED.

St. Thomas, D. W. I., Nov. 5.—There is no threatened rising among the Negroes in the Danish West Indies. The only event which may have given currency to such a rumor was the celebration recently held in the Island of Santa Cruz in honor of the first issue of a newspaper devoted to the Negro cause.

The publisher of the paper is the Negro leader, Hamilton Jackson, who recently visited Copenhagen to lay before the authorities there alleged grievances against the local administration.

Race Problem - 1915
West Indies

HAITI BETRAYED

Port Au Prince, Haiti, Dec. 10.—The United States and the Republic of Haiti, desirous of strengthening and fortifying the friendship existing between them by a hearty co-operation in regard to certain measures for their mutual benefit, and the Republic of Haiti wishing to remedy the condition of its finances, which is not satisfactory, to prevent the loss of many of its revenues due in part to its internal troubles, to make provisions against the undue increase of its public debts, to inaugurate a more comprehensive system of auditing its public accounts, to maintain the tranquillity of the republic, to execute certain plans for the economic development, the prosperity of the republic and of the Haitian people, to consolidate its credit and in general to place and maintain its finances on a solid basis, and the United States being in sympathy with all these desires and ambitions, and desirous of contributing to their realization as much as possible, the United States and Haiti having resolved to hold a convention having these objects in view, have named as plenipotentiaries:

For the United States—Davis, Ambassador to Haiti.

For Haiti—Louis Borno, Minister of Foreign Office.

The convention having duly met, the decisions were as follows:

I.

The President of the United States will name a general tax collector who, with such assistants as the President of the United States may appoint, will recover, receive and apply all the custom-house duties as to imports and exports coming from the different custom-houses and ports of Haiti. The President of the United States will appoint a financial counsellor who will devise an adequate system of public accounts, aid in the increase of the revenues and the payment of expenses, pass judgment on the validity of the public debt, enlighten the two governments as to future debts, recommend a perfected method of collecting, and employing the revenues, and in short exercise the duties of a controller.

II.

The Haitian Government will provide a law or an appropriate decree demanding that all custom-house duties be paid to the controller, the Republic will also give him all the aid and protection necessary in the execution of the duties conferred on him by these presents, and the United States will give the same aid and protection.

III.

At the appointment of the financial counsellor the Haitian Government, cooperating with the counsellor, will compare, set in order, arrange and make a complete statement of the debts of the Republic, of their sum total, interest, expiration and the sum necessary to complete their payments.

IV.

All finances collected by the general controller will be used as follows: First, for the payment of the salary of the general Controller, his assistants and employees, and the expenses of the receiver's office which will include the salary of the financial controller; second, for the payment of the interest and principal of the public debt of the Republic of Haiti; third, for the maintenance of the police revised in number nine project and the rest of the Haitian Government for current expenses. In making these applications, the general controller will pay all salaries monthly and on the first of each month will make an itemized statement of the finances collected and expended during the preceding month.

V.

The expenses of the receiver's office, including the salaries of the general Controller, his assistants and employees, must not exceed five per cent of the duties coming from the custom-houses, unless through an agreement between the two governments.

VI.

The general Controller will make a monthly report of all receipts and expenditures to the proper Haitian officials and to the United States' Department of State; these reports will be submitted to the inspection of competent authorities of each of the said governments for their approval.

VII.

The Republic of Haiti must not increase its debt, nor assume any financial obligations unless after all the expenses of the Government are paid, the revenues of the Republic be sufficient to pay the interest and provide for a decrease to the complete extinction of such a debt.

VIII.

The Republic of Haiti, without the consent of the President of the United States, will not alter the custom-house duties in any way which will tend t decrease the revenues, in order that the revenues of the Republic be sufficient for the expenses of the Government for payment on the public debt, to preserve tranquillity and promote material prosperity, the Republic of Haiti will co-operate with the financial Counsellor in all his suggestions for improvements in the method of collecting and expending revenues and inaugurating new sources of revenues.

IX.

The Haitian Government, in view of its preservation, its interior peace, the security of its individual rights and the complete observance of the provisions of this treaty, will create without delay, an efficient corps of police composed of Haitians. This body will be organized and commanded by Americans appointed by the President of the United States and approved by the Government of Haiti which will give them all the support necessary in the exercise of their duties. The police under the direction of the Haitian Government will supervise and control all arms, munitions and military articles, and also the commerce in all the country. These stipulations are necessary to prevent the discords and factional struggles.

X.

The Haitian Government agrees not to cede any part of its territory of the Republic by sale, lease or otherwise, nor to confer jurisdiction over such territory to any power or strange Government except the United States nor to sign with any other power any treaty or contract which will tend to diminish the Independence of Haiti.

XI.

The Haitian Government agrees to sign with the United States a protocol for the regulation by arbitration or otherwise all pecuniary claims pending between corporations, companies, citizens or foreign subjects and Haiti.

XII.

The Republic of Haiti desiring to develop its natural resources agrees to put in execution such measures as in the opinion of the United States Government will be necessary on the point of the hygienic advancement of the Republic under the supervision and direction of one or several engineers who will be appointed by the President of the United States and approved by the Haitian Government.

XIII.

The United States will have the authority to prevent any interference in the accomplishment of any provision named in this treaty, and will also have the right to intervene for the preservation of Haitian Independence and for the maintenance of a Government capable of protecting life, liberty and personal liberty.

XIV.

The present treaty will be approved and ratified by the high contracting parties in accordance with their respective laws, and the ratification will be exchanged in Washington as soon as possible.

XV.

The present treaty will remain in force for a period of ten years from the day of the exchange of the ratifications and may be extended for another period of ten years at the request of one of the parties. In testimony whereof, the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present convention and affixed their seals.

Interview of Captain E. L. Beach, U. S. N., Commanding.

We are, said he, simply the military force without any diplomatic mission. We are interested only in peace and order, and have no ulterior desires of any kind. All questions of a diplomatic nature will be treated by the diplomats of the two nations. We are not threatening and we have only good sentiments toward Haiti for whom we are formulating the best plans. The Americans desire the happiness and prosperity of Haiti, revolving all independence. The Captain added that he has known the Republic for 25 years and he knows that the Haitien flag is dear to the Haitien hearts. But his country has assumed certain international obligations in regard to Haiti. The recent disorders have caused his Government to seriously consider the importance of these obligations.

Law and Order Desired.

In short, the situation is this: The American navy must enforce law and order if it becomes necessary. The United States has given its guarantee to all the European Governments and likewise to the Haitien Government.

I understand he remarked, that the Haitiens desire us to leave as soon as possible. We have a similar desire, but only the establishment of perfect tranquillity will hasten our departure. But if the disorders and hostilities continue, it will prolong our sojourn. The Captain then states that he had orders only for Cape Haitien and Port-au-Prince and not for the entire country. The reason for this order rests on strange interests.

We do not intend to interfere in any way in the affairs of the country declared the Captain. If a parallel incident arose, it should be by treaty between the two Governments.

Co-operation Needed.

The Captain assured us that he does not advocate violence but friendship. That he wishes the co-operation of all good Haitiens who would use their influence to preserve this friendship and prevent all disorders.

Then he solicited the aid of our paper to use our influence to spread the reassuring words. He begged us to teach all that he desired only the good will of the Haitiens, law and order here.

Let your paper, he added, advise the Haitiens to avoid all disagreements. I have met recently, he continued, many who are men of honor and patriots and who believe in the sentiments that I have expressed to you.

He would be pleased to ask again, the aid and co-operation of all Haitiens to arrive at the highest results. Also, he would put himself at all hours at the disposal of all who wish to visit him. They will be welcomed with pleasure at the American Legation. For he has made a number of friends here in 25 years and would be happy to increase the number.

At the Present Hour.

We do not come here to set forth any ideas of false sentiment or interested chauvinism. We simply wish to state some facts, obeying a duty which imposes itself on real friendship.

Often we have been reproached here and abroad for our pronounced sympathies for the American people. But who does not admire this nation whose prodigious development has astonished the world? But we wish for its sake, free neighborly relations without which we will have a situation like the one described by Rostand in L'Aiglon where the Duke is free and a prisoner at the same time. This case is the same which the United States follows, vis-a-vis, some countries as ours.

Jealous of Prestige.

Not long, perhaps ten years ago, the "World's Work" said in clear and positive terms, "Haiti is now the only country on earth where the blacks are politically superior to the whites; this must cease." Consequently, it is unfortunate that small personal ambitions have brought us to the state of disorder in which we find ourselves involved. But are we for that reason totally lost? For five years blood ran on the shores of the Potomac and the Hudson; the President Lincoln, the great liberator, had been pressed down. The Union was threatened with destruction and he didn't notice it. One day, however, peace returned and the work of reconstruction was begun after eleven years. The latest historian of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, the President, was able to write of this period, "The National spirit was awakened and finally realized its strength." The scene was enacted for the creation of a new nation.

There is so much to say on this subject of Annexation that I do not know where to begin. However, I want to explain to my compatriots that the geographical position of Haiti is a cause of great anxiety on the part of the strategists of the United States, due to the strategic importance of St. Nicolas Pier. It is not I, who advances this argument. Let us review the statements of authentic documents. In the Sept. and Oct., 1905, numbers of the monthly review, "The World's Work," M. Eugene Lyle, Jr., published a series of articles which would have saved us some mistakes in our diplomatic relations with the United States. The titles of these articles suggest the tendencies of American politics concerning us. Here are some of the titles: "Our Imbroglio in Santo Domingo," "Our Control of the Antilles," and "The Black Republic and Our Strategic Needs."

The Deep Reason.

The statesmen who have the safety of the Republic at heart, should secure these articles in order to read and study them. Quoting some passages, we read: "When we build the Panama Canal, we shall have the European powers at our doors. . . . The approaches of the Canal constitute the effective places of defense and not the expensive fortifications we intend to erect. . . . The islands of Saint Dominigue, Haiti and Porto Rico, and St. Thomas constitute the real defense of the Canal. . . . A Republic of turbulent negroes can menace our future expansion. . . . Our strategists insist that our strategic possessions have not yet passed a reasonable limit. . . . Economic and military necessity give a civilized nation the right to subdue a non-progressive people. . . . If in order to protect our right against intrusions of other nations, the possession of St. Nicolas Bay becomes necessary, it only rests with us to make a decision. . . "

The American Occupation.

This is a fact which comes before us and demands our deepest meditation. It constitutes the inevitable ransom of our wildness, the ultimate results of our errors, of our unpardonable faults and our disregard and violation of our obligations to ourselves. I do not intend to criminate against any one, nor to increase the near or distant responsibility in a question where the actual gravity must occupy each and every one without distinction. If our house were in danger of burning, we would consider only one thing and that is in spite of everything, the house must be saved; and I believe that a hearty co-operation in this sense should be our care.

Solution Needed.

The American occupation in its delicate and desolate complexity raises for us some important questions which require and demand solution. However, this solution can not be considered, sought or obtained either in our habitual doings, our customary declamations, or in our perpetual compromises. But to the contrary: the hour for wisdom has finally sounded for us, and it is only by using unusual calm and deliberation that we shall be able to go with honor out of a difficult situation where we have been driven. For at least a quarter of a century, the eyes of the United States have been fixed on us.

Pretext Furnished.

Our endless competitions of interest and our bloody commotions which tore us to pieces had their echo in Washington. And to the more clearsighted Haitiens, it was evident that one day or other, this chronic state of disorder would furnish to the American Government sufficient pretext for intervention in our affairs. This is not the time to debate on the question as to whether a strong nation has a right to interfere in the affairs of a weak nation. But if the question were put to me, I would not hesitate to respond in the negative; for I hold that nation like an individual each has control of himself, and each has the right to seek his way, to follow his destiny, to declare and make worthy his aspirations to the best of his ability. This is an incontestable fact. Another fact which is no less important, but in a measure equal, and which the Haitiens ought never to mistake, is that when a nation like an individual has control of himself and the unhampered right to follow his destiny, the exercise of this right requires an imperious and unavoidable duty

and that is, to show at all times and under all circumstances that strong moral discipline which removes and eliminates from our conception all tendency to disorder and all inclination to brigandage, and likewise to affirm and prove that we aspire to good and to better, and that it is our earnest wish to avoid the old paths and the old mistakes.

Continually Warned.

This great duty which is the same for all peoples, we have therefore disregarded in order to obey only our instincts and to follow the narrow paths of our little personal interests. Even if the eyes of the White House were not fixed upon us, even if we had nothing to fear in regard to outside interference on account of our bad management, we were none obliged to respect ourselves, and since a nation which do not progress, recedes, and since a nation which recedes soon finds itself in the position of a nonentity, we were none the less obliged to conduct ourselves with leniency and propriety and to show that we are a human people desirous of contributing to progress.

But since to our knowledge, the White House was watching us, and since in fact it has posted sentinels on our cross streets, our bad management assumes a senseless and criminal character. The danger was known, imminent and inevitable. For the last ten or twelve years we have been continually warned. But in spite of everything we have persisted in our periodic and perpetual "patriotic disorders."

To the Editor of The New York News:

Dear Sir:—The Danish West India Committee feels that it owes some thanks to The New York News for its brief editorial on the Awakening in the West Indies, referring to the work being done by D. Hamilton Jackson for the natives of the Danish West Indies.

We take it as one more proof that the broad-minded editor of the News is trying to make his paper a journal of our race's doings in the widest sense. Your editorial attitude and such things as the Civic League's dinner of last Sunday, make us feel that the day is at hand when we people of African extraction shall, under the guidance of wise leadership on both sides, sink all national differences in the stream of racial consciousness.

I assume that you and your readers will be glad to hear the sequel of Mr. Jackson's mission to Copenhagen. At present he is the man of the hour in Denmark. He has been received by the King and listened to with deference and respect by the Danish Parliament and Ministry. He has also received and invitation from the King of Sweden to visit him at his palace in Sweden and, later, to deliver a public address before the notabilities of that kingdom.

But the matter of greatest consequence is that of the reforms which at Mr. Jackson's solicitation have been granted to the three islands of Santa Cruz, St. Thomas and St. John's. These are first, that the Governor of these islands, Herr Helweg-Larsen is fired, bag and baggage. This alone would have been a notable thing to be achieved by one lone black man with all the wild dogs of the planter's press in the islands barking at his heels. But in addition to this the receipt announces the freedom of speech, press and assemblage; full manhood suffrage to all natives (which I think includes women also, although I can't be quite sure of this until we hear from Copenhagen again); university education in Denmark for the native graduates of the Danish West Indian public schools; the white gendarmes will be removed and replaced by native gendarmes, and at the bottom of all these, the land will be freed from the grip of the rapacious planters and will be thrown open to all natives who will be assisted by government loans to take and cultivate the land for themselves.

These things constitute a social, political and indstrial revolution in the Danish islands and their achievement places Mr. Jackson at once in the class of men of international prominence. His work is a work of which all of us, irrespective of nationality, can be justly proud.

He intends to come to New York for a few weeks on his way back to his home and we intend to celebrate his return in a monster gathering at some big Casino to which we shall invite all West Indians and all Americans to help to do him honor. We feel that the racial heartstrings vibrate whenever, in any place, one of us wins success such as his, and that our own dignity and self-respect require that we join hands with the wider world to give it the greatest publicity.

It was for this reason that the Danish West Indian Committee held its first forum-meeting at St. Mark's Hall last Sunday. This also was a decided success and the Danish West Indians there present contributed so generously to the Jackson Fund that I have thought it worth while to defer cabling the amount to Denmark until those who were not lucky enough to be present on that great occasion have had an opportunity to send in their contributions. I feel sure that all our people in America will be glad to do this, since outsiders have been generous enough to do their part, unasked. **A significant feature of the proceedings on Sunday was the contribution of $2.50 by three British West Indians, one of whom was Dr. E. Elliott Rawlins.**

The audience hung enthralled on the words of Louis A. Jeppe, Robert Mac Lean and Victor Murphy. When the news of Mr. Jackson's victory was read, they fairly made the rafters ring. The Danish boys of the Century Band contributed transporting music for the occasion.

The collection amounted to $36.50. The meeting adjourned after electing Ashley L. Totten secretary.

Yours sincerely,

HUBERT H. HARRISON,
Chairman of the Danish West Indian Committee.
June 29th, 1915.

HAITI'S OCCUPATION BY AMERICAN TROOPS

The following letter from a talented woman living in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, engaged in educational work, is a thrilling and gripping presentation of facts concerning conditions in that ill-fated isle under the present rule of United States troops.

The letter is as follows, and speaks for itself:

To the Women of the Negro Race Throughout the United States of America: Courteous Greetings!

Dear Sisters:

On the 27th and 28th of July last another civil revolution culminated in the frightful massacre of the prisoners at the Capital, and the summary execution of the dethroned president, General Vilbrun Guillaume Sam, by whose orders it is said the wholesale slaughter had been accomplished.

On the following day, the 29th, an American military expedition landed troops here by night. They did not land openly; but mysteriously, at Bizoton, a little country station four miles from Port-au-Prince. The different military posts, most of them unguarded at that moment of anarchy, were surprised, invaded and disarmed, and subsequently even the National Fort, the Casernes-Dessalines, the National Palace, every soldier and private citizen. Every gun and the last cartridge were placed on board the American gunboats in the harbor.

The chiefs of the expedition said it was to prevent further bloodshed and insure order in view of the coming presidential election. The population was disposed to accept the thing in a friendly spirit. But soon after the American soldiers began to shoot down at will, for the mere sport of killing it seemed, the most inoffensive persons. In one instance a barefoot vagrant was shot down dead for continuing to run when he was called. In another a stone deaf gentleman on his way to early mass was shot and wounded by the American patrol. His crime consisted also in not responding to a call that he was physically unable to hear, much less comprehend.

Still pursuing their mission of insuring order they stopped a wedding party searched the men for arms, and then did the same to the ladies and young girls composing the escort. They have forced the doors of private families under excuse of looking for hidden arms and ammunition; and finally, have attempted at the honor of the wives and daughters of some of the best families here.

The new president has been elected and the executive body reconstituted but the Americans still occupy the National Fort, the Caserines, and the palace gates are guarded by American soldiers.

On Monday, August 23, the American Charge d'Affaires presented officially a project to the Haytian government demanding that it be ratified and subscribed to within forty-eight hours. The execuive refused to comply with the ultimatium and the American Government cabled that it accepted the discussion of the project. But meantime, the American forces have taken possession of the custom houses at Saint-Marc and Port-au-Prince.

Quite recently a reserve fund of two million dollars was clandestinely taken from the national bank by agents of the American government, placed on board a waiting gunboat and conveyed to the United States. The Haytian Government has not been able up to this moment to obain any explanation of the arbitrary proceeding.

If American intervention is here to save us from despotism, military and economic, why substitute foreign despotism to the domestic article? Is it for debt that our reserve fund has thus been confiscated? The Haytian government in spite of her innumerable revolutions, has promptly met and fulfilled all her obligations, so, practically, Hayti owes nothing.

We do not pretend to deny that for more than a century the spectacle of our unending civil wars has constituted an "international nuisance and scandal." We have been variously scorned, ridiculed and condemned; but has it been justly so?

All the nations that are self-made, that is that have evolved, unaided, from crude barbarism to progressive civilization, have known the throes and agitations that have so often convulsed the Haytian Nation.

When France was practicing the "duel judiciaire" why did not the other nations point the finger of scorn? Because their own civilization was hardly in advance of hers. Our civil wars are merely an enlarged form of the "duel judiciaire" perhaps.

If the United States has not had those factors to contend with it is because its national life, like another Minerva, sprung full-capped from the brains of Jupiter (England), or, like the father of the human species, dropped from the hands of the Creator in the full grace and strength of robust manhood; for the founders of the American nationality were the intellectual, moral and social elite of England, and they were aided in their task by the fine-flower of French chivalry.

Unlike the United States, this nation sprung into life under conditions exceptionally abnormal and disadvantageous. Centuries ago, when sacred writ first declared that "the sins of the fathers are visited on the children," humanity did not seize the full import of the revelation contained in that message. Men looked for material and even physical chastisement as the reward of ancestral sin, until modern science adding psychology to physiology recognized the possibility of mental and moral aberrations as a result of hereditary or atanic taint. That necessarily meant mental, moral and volitional limitations as well.

Consider then what it must mean that the founders of the Haytian nationality for unnumbered centuries had groped in the blinding obscurity of dark Africa. Wrenched from their native soil and cast on this island, their pristine degradation was reinforced and rendered still more abject by three full centuries of oppression and slavery. And, as if that did not suffice, Spain, England, Portugal and France, opened their penitentiaries, set loose their jailbirds and sent them, by the vilest form of prostitution, to furthermore poison, at the very sources of their spiritual being, the descendants of that most unfortunate and forlorn people.

All Europe sent its felons, its cutthroats, its bachelors of infamy, its doctors of vice and crime, to disgorge the virus of their mental aberrations and moral pollutions on the cradle of the nation to-be. Is it small wonder that with such an ancestry, with such a taint in her mental and moral constitution Hayti is in a perpetual fever of unrest, and her civic life in a chronic state of eruption?

We could extend the parallel. The population of the United States constantly increased by the advent of new forces, has sustained vitality. For the emigrants that go to her shores represent the best that the other nations can furnish in the line of laborers, mechanical or agricultural, because only those who are ambitious enough to be dissatisfied with their surroundings, possessed of zeal and determinations enough to break with traditions and home ties are likely to emigrate.

With Hayti it is just the opposite. For the most part it is the individual with no credit at home, mental, moral or otherwise, who come to her shores, to speculate in her politics or win easy social credit by the prestige of their color.

Education alone, sound religious and moral training, can hope to counteract these evils and hasten the disappearance of our chronic civic distempers.

THEODORA HOLLY,
Sub-Inspectress of School;
Vice-President of the local Association of teachers.

DENMARK HONORS SMITH

Leading Merchant of Danish West Indies Made Crown Member of the Legislature.

(Special to The New York News.)

St. Thomas, D. W. I., April 18.

Cable advices from Denmark announce the election as a crown member to the Legislature of Abram E. Smith, a well-known merchant of color here. This is the first time the Danish King has conferred such a high mark of esteem on a native of these islands.

Abram E. Smith is the senior member of the Smith Bros.' dry goods firm and president of the Kacey Bay Enterprising Co., owning $5,000 worth of shares in the big enterprise located in the Island of St. John, D. W. I. From an ordinary clerk in the firm of Messrs. Lugo & Co. he has worked his way up and about eight years ago bought, together with his brother, Messrs. Lugo & Co. out for what is said to be the largest sum ever paid in the West Indies for a business of this kind.

Of modest and retiring character his constituents are looking forward to a brilliant future for him. Repeatedly he has refused to run on the popular ticket for the office he now holds. About six years ago he paid a visit to the United States and spent some time in Washington, New York and Newport News, Va.

THE NEGROES OF BRAZIL.

In Next Sunday's Express, Frank G. Carpenter Will Tell How Our Great Sister Republic is Settling the Question of the Races.

The negro population decreasing, but it still numbers millions; the rise of the colored man and his social equality; something about immigration; how the slaves were freed; their increase in prosperity and wealth; a look at them in Bahia; old slave center; a great Brazilian port and how it is growing; an American market in the heart of the tropics.

Race Problem – 1915
West Indies

WHAT HAITI DISLIKES

Mr. E. Chauvet, Editor of *Le Nouvelliste*, Port au Prince, Haiti, has given to the press of the country a copy of a letter he has sent to Senators and other prominent officials.—Editor.

The Letter.

ESPECIALLY for the purpose of presenting to each member of the United States Senate the exact situation as at present exists in Haiti, I have just returned from Port au Prince. I have felt it my duty to come, because I have passed many years of my life in trying, through the columns of my daily paper, *Le Nouvelliste*, published in Port au Prince, to fight for the noble ideas of Americanism, with which spirit I was imbued when I was in your country studying American journalism in the office of the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*.

For six years I have done everything within my power to persuade my countrymen that it was for their own interests that Haiti should proceed hand in hand with the United States. I was confident that, of all nations, the United States stood supreme as a respecter of nations' rights. It is for that reason that, now that the crucial moment has arrived, I have come here to plead that the agreement between our two Governments be made on a solid basis—that there will be no trouble in the future—so that both Governments will never be haunted with regret. Because of what I know of the sentiments of the Haitian people, I beg leave to present what the people of Haiti will accept—in other words, what Haiti can give and the very least that she can ask of the United States.

The convention which the United States has presented to Haiti, and which has been published in all the Haitian newspapers, is very dignified and fair, but if part of the convention could be changed in form only, in order not to hurt Haitian feeling and sensitiveness, and not bruise national dignity, would it not be to the advantage of everybody that that be done?

It is the intention of the President of the United States to appoint a receiver general, who, with other American officials, will have charge of all Haitian custom houses. It must be remembered and taken into consideration that Haiti has never at any time whatsoever defaulted in the payment of any debts she has contracted; this, of course, can easily be proven. The daily presence of an American official in the custom house would be the occasion of ill-feeling and would breed all kinds of trouble. That must be prevented, and what Haiti has to suggest in this respect I hardly think will be denied or refused by the United States.

You also suggest the appointment of a financial adviser, who, as proposed, will have considerably more power than the President of Haiti. In that case, no President would be needed at all.

Haiti is very proud of its freedom, obtained at the cost of great sacrifice. At this critical time will not the United States help her to accept of these changed conditions with as much grace as possible?

My whole life is devoted to cultivating the friendship and business relations between our two countries. Help me to help Haiti—my poor country which nature has made your brotherland. Help me to spread the truth of this weak little country, so that all your people may know that we look to you—and you only—for salvation and prosperity and peace.

E. CHAUVET,
Editor *Le Nouvelliste*, Port au Prince, Haiti.

TAKING OVER HAITI.

The American government is planning to take over and administer the governmental affairs of Haiti, the black island republic, for a period of ten years in order to insure the establishment of peace and good order in the country and to see that the rights of foreigners residing there are properly protected.

Ten or fifteen years ago this exercise of police power on the part of the United States would have been resented throughout Latin America, because of belief that this country aimed at territorial acquisition. That is what they thought when we took Cuba away from Spain, but our turning of that island back to the Cubans under a stable government upset all their preconceived notions and gave birth to the belief among them that perhaps, after all, we were not so bad as their jealousy had led them to think.

The Cuban incident alone has done more than anything else to win their confidence, and today they have already joined us in the effort to restore peace and constitutional government in Mexico.

While it is important in principle, the Haitien incident is, in itself, of minor consequence. The black republic has had eight presidents in as many years. Revolutions have been annual affairs, and executions of political prisoners have been more frequent than the punishment of actual criminals. There has never been any assurance of safety for the lives and property of foreign residents, and the sense of obligation has been something the Haitien government has never been able to understand.

It is high time somebody were taking hold to put a stop to these corrupt excesses, and this government is the only one qualified to do it. We do not want Haiti; would rather not have it, and will not take it unless its people compel us to do it. But we can set it upon its feet again, and then start it off with the warning that it must make good or suffer the penalty.

The situation in Haiti is not incomparable to that in Mexico. The differences in the two problems are rather in extent than in degree or kind. The same general conditions of anarchy and misrule prevail in Mexico as have torn up Haiti, but the Mexican problem is naturally much more complicated and will have to be differently dealt with.

We do not want to go into Mexico with an army, where, even though we achieved an early victory, the effort would be fraught with considerable loss of life as well as great expense. There are other means by which Mexico may be brought to terms, which will impel the restoration of peace and good order. In the solution of this problem Latin-America has joined us because she has come to believe in our good intentions.

In Haiti the principle is the same. But there a couple of warships and a few hundred marines will do the work. They will establish peace and a stable government; then they will withdraw. Haiti will have learned that it pays to remain at peace and meet her obligations. The lesson will be a good one not only for her, but for some of the other minor republics which also need an occasional "jacking up."

JAMAICA HAS INDUSTRY SCHOOL FOR ITS YOUTH

Special to The Christian Science Monitor from its Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON—The island of Jamaica is building up an industrial school for boys and girls which, according to official reports, is likely in the end to rival the famous Tuskegee Institute, presided over by Booker T. Washington. Sixteen years ago the school was established, at first for girls only, and the results have been so gratifying that all possible aid has been given it since. Only a few weeks ago a new and imposing building was opened on the campus, and year by year it is planned to have the institution take on new work and make a larger appeal to the people of the island.

The Happy Grive Industrial school is called, and it is under the management of the American Friends' board of foreign government. There is inspection by the government of Jamaica, which contributes to its support. Support also is given by individual contributions. The students are taught reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, history, drawing, Scripture and the sciences. There is also a course in agriculture, recently introduced, from which much is expected.

Each pupil is taught something of the art of tailoring and dressmaking, mending and darning, and there are classes in cabinetmaking and carpentry. In addition, the girls are taught domestic science in all its phases.

HAITIAN COMMISSION NOW IN WASHINGTON

Special to The New York Age.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Augusta Magliore, Pierre Hudicourt, Edgar D. Touche and Leon deJean, a commission representing Haiti, have arrived here to take up with the Department of State and, perhaps, the Foreign Relations Committee of the Senate, the proposed treaty between this and their country.

A proposed convention has already been ratified by the Haitian Congress, but before it becomes binding upon either government will have to be ratified by the United States Senate.

The treaty gives the United States a protectorate, military and financial, over Haiti for the next ten years. Its ratification has caused a number of influential Haitians, and one—M. Pauleus Sannon—resigned as Minister of Foreign Affairs rather than be a party to its ratification.

BOSTON, MASS. CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
MAR 26 1915

American Forces Ordered to Control Haiti Affair

Violation of French Legation and Assassination of President Guillaume Necessitates Prompt Action to Protect Life --Admiral Caperton Ordered to Land Marines

advertiser 7-

WASHINGTON, July 28.—At the request of Secretary Lansing, Rear Admiral Caperton was instructed today to land marines in Port Au Prince, Haiti, to protect the lives of Americans and foreigners. 7/29/15

This was the first step by the United States to re-establish peace in the Haytien republic and the general belief tonight was that the marines would not be withdrawn until definite arrangements were made for permanent stability.

Admiral Caperton has 400 marines and bluejackets on board the U. S. S. Washington, which arrived at Port Au Prince today and the collier Jason, with another 100 is due tomorrow. Additional forces are available at Guantanamo.

The State Department received messages today from Charge d'Affaires Davis telling of the assassination of President Guillaume by a mob which broke into the French legation. This violation of the diplomatic immunity which foreign legations enjoy would be regarded ordinarily as a serious affront, but in view of the absence of an established government and the generally turbulent conditions the incident probably will not complicate the situation. It, however, stimulated the American government to take immediate steps to restore order.

President Wilson has been giving consideration to the Haitien situation for weeks. Paul Fuller, Jr., sent to investigate conditions there recently, returned with a report showing that it was impossible for him to negotiate a proposed treaty with President Guillaume because of the latter's fears that the populace would rise against him if he signed the pact.

Terms of the proposed treaty were not made public, but it is known the Unitde States attempted to arrange for administration of the customs in a way similar to the American control of customs in the Dominican republic.

It was considered probable in diplomatic quarters tonight that the United States now would insist on its original proposals before withdrawing its forces and to compel an observance of law and order also would seek to have incorporated in the treaty a provision somewhat similar to the Platt amendment in the Cuban treaty, whereby the United States would have the right to intervene in the event of disorders. The condition of anarchy which has prevailed for the last few days in Port Au Prince has strengthened the conviction of many officials here that the American government must obtain an agreement whereby it will be able to sustain by force of arms any government that eventually is set up.

New Cabinet For Haiti Announced By New Executive

advertiser 3-6 13

CAPE HAITIEN, HAITI, March 5—General Vilbrun Guillaume was formally elected President of Haiti today. A cabinet was formed as follows: Finance, M. Bourand; Interior, M. Fradel; Foreign Affairs, M. Bonamy; War, M. Codio; Justice, M. Guilbaud; Public Works, General Glembau.

General Guillaume headed a revolutionary force which took the field last January, capturing Cape Haitien on January 17, and entering Port-au-Prince, the crital, on March 2. The revolution was directed against the administration of President Davilmar Theodor. M. Theodor was compelled to abdicate and took refuge on a Dutch steamship in the harbor of Port-au-Prince. General Guillaume was recognized as Chief Executive of Haiti by the other revolutionary leaders and on March 2 was procalimed Provisional President by the National Assembly.

COLORED CUBANS PEACEFUL

DENIAL MADE OF THE RUMOR THAT THEY WOULD START AN INSURRECTION.

Havana, Oct. 3, 1915.—A delegation of officers of the new political organization of whites and blacks in Oriente Province, which is called "Friends of the People," yesterday visited President Menocal and gave him their assurances that there was not the least warrant for the recent rumors of an impending uprising among the negroes in various parts of the island.

WASHINGTON FAVORS HAITI PROTECTORATE

advertiser 8-17-15

HALIFAX, N. S., Aug. 16.—"It is my opinion that the time has come for the United States to assume a protectorate over the republic of Haiti, the same as over San Domingo," said Booker T. Washington, here today.

"There will never be peace in Haiti until the people have been taught how to work. Hard work, a good system of education and firm hand will be the salvation of Haiti and the United States would do all for them."

Washington did not think the history of Haiti proved that the negroes were not fit to govern themselves.

BLACK DANISH UPRISING

REPORT FROM DANISH WEST INDIES OF SERIOUS INSURRECTION—SAY U. S. AND DENMARK BOTH SENDING WARSHIPS.

Copenhagen, Nov. 4, 1915.—A despatch to the Politiken from St. Thomas says: There is a serious Negro uprising in the Danish West Indies. Both the United States and Denmark have been asked to send warships. The insurrection was organized by Jack Hamilton, a Negro leader, who recently visited Copenhagen.

NEGROES WANT VOTE IN DANISH WEST INDIES

Copenhagen May 27.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Hamilton Jackson, a negro representative of the native population in the Danish West Indies, has arrived in Copenhagen and conferred with the minister of finance and other government officials concerning grievances his constituents have against L. C. Helweg-Larsen, present Governor of the islands and his administration. Jackson urged that the negroes be permitted to vote, as almost every negro under 36 years of age is now able to read and write. He also urged improvement in the sanitary conditions and changes in the economic situation. The negroes asked through Jackson for the privilege of printing their own newspaper and holding public meetings.

The minister of finance gave Jackson an attentive hearing and a state conference has been arranged for a date in June when the Governor, who is now on his way home, will discuss the insular situation with other officials. Jackson and his followers contend that another Governor and a radical reform administration must be provided which is in sympathy with the progressive native population before the unrest can be quieted.

TRANSCRIPT

AUG 17 1915

SENSIBLE DR. WASHINGTON.

Dr. Booker T. Washington speaks with rare sanity. He has raised his voice on the Haiti situation and in that raising he speaks so that we might all listen. He says:

There will never be peace in Hayti until the people have been taught how to work. Hard work, a good system of education, and a firm hand would be the salvation of Hayti, and the United States would do all that for them.

Dr. Washington does not think the history of Hayti proves the negro people not fit to govern themselves any more than the history of the decadent nations of ancient Greece, Rome, and Spain proved the white man was not fit to rule.

Dr. Washington is quite right. Work hard work and a good system of education will restore Hayti and make a safe place out of a barbarous condition. But the people of Hayti will not work and will not have a system of education until some outside force comes along and gives it to them. This is arguing somewhat as the Germans do to be sure. The Germans have felt that Europe needed their domination because they had the best kind of kulture going.

So these people of Hayti do need somebody with some kind of appreciation of work and education to give them a lift along the right way. There is a big chance for the United States to do a large piece of missionary work on Hayti but whether or not we are willing to resume the responsibility is the question.

No Annexation in Jamaica.

(New York Mail.)

The letter from the editor of the Jamaica Times in regard to the possibility of Bermuda and Jamaica becoming part of the United States illustrates anew the binding force of the sense of nationality. There is one point referred to by our courteous contributor, that is the greater success in dealing with negro populations. With nearly a million inhabitants, the number of murders in Jamaica averages about seven a year. The 90,000 negroes in Washington, D. C., commit more murders than the 800,000 negroes in Jamaica. There is one county of 225,000 inhabitants in Alabama, where negroes predominate, where murders have run as high as 306 in one year. Such facts confront the United States in any effort to spread our influence to other countries. The excellence of our theory of government will be judged by such facts as the murder rate, abolition of poverty, stability of business and integrity and efficiency of public servants.

WEST INDIA NEGROES

They Want to Vote and to Print Their Own Newspaper.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

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COLORED CITIZENS PROTEST AMERICAN INVASION OF HAITI

The administration policy toward Haiti came in for censure last night at the monthy meeting of the Greater Boston branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League at its headquarters 49 Cornhill. It was voted to appoint a committee of five to send a memorial to President Wilson protesting against the "seizure of the government of the little republic by the naval and military forces of the United States without provocation."

The 25th anniversary of the death of John Boyle O'Reilly was noted by a resolution of appreciation for his friendship to colored Americans in their struggle for equal rights, and for his work in securing the Crispus-Attucks monument.

Minneapolis, Minn.

AUG 22 1915

Danish West Indies Negroes May Get Vote

Copenhagen, Aug. 22.—Proposals have recently been made looking to the granting of universal suffrage to the negro population of the Danish West Indies, but no action in the matter will be taken until a report is received from a commission to be appointed to consider the result of universal suffrage among the negro population in the Southern states of the United States.

The negroes in the Danish West Indies largely outnumber the whites and the granting of the vote to the black is therefore regarded as a proposition of considerable movement. The Danish minister of finance, Dr. Edward Brandes, is one of the leaders of the movement for opening the electoral privileges to the negro.

Race Problem — 1915

West Indies

Turbulent N

After seeking to check ins ... prisoners, President Guillaume (William) Sam of Hayti was on July 28 chased out of his refuge in the French legation at Port au Prince, shot, dismembered and portions of his body were dragged through the streets.

Such savage anarchy is nothing new in Hayti, which has been almost a continual scene of revolution and violent disturbance ever since the yoke of the white man was thrown off more than a century ago.

The western half of the old island of Hispaniola was originally held by France and called Hayti, the eastern half being held by Spain and called San Domingo. The aboriginal native Caribs, a gentle variety of the American Indian, soon virtually disappeared after the coming of the white man, and the population of the island is now almost wholly of African stock, descendants of the enormous importations of negroes from the Dark Continent.

About the year 1800, after a series of insurrections, the blacks achieved independence, the French section of the island dominating until the middle of the nineteenth century, since which time Hayti and San Domingo have maintained separate governments, their war-made rulers sometimes calling themselves Emperor and sometimes President. San Domingo long ago became almost a synonym for massacre and the renown of Hayti has been scarcely less infamous.

The fact that the so-called republics of Hayti and San Domingo are in a sense within our sphere of influence calls to mind a third negro republic which was of American origin. Liberia, on the west coast of Africa, was founded in 1821 by the American Colonization Society, of which Henry Clay was president, and was settled by emancipated negroes from the United States, being left to its own resources and becoming independent in 1847.

Much less violent disturbance has been reported from Liberia than from Hayti and San Domingo, but, in spite of all the coddling and tutelage received from the United States, this third black republic has not prospered materially and, according to the accounts, has deteriorated morally, tending back toward West African superstition and savagery. Although slavery was forbidden from the outset, travelers within a dozen years past have reported that slaves could be purchased in Liberian towns for ten dollars a head.

According to the students of the subject, the native African tribes have remained stationary for 5,000 years. Little if any more capacity for real advancement seems to be shown by the negroes of Hayti, San Domingo and Liberia, who have had the advantage of a certain amount of training under the white man. As to capacity for self-government, organization and the orderly processes of civilization, these three black republics appear to be almost totally lacking, and especially in Hayti and San Domingo the trend seems to be in the direction of barbarism as hopeless as that of Dahomey or Ashanti.

Happily the United States is no longer responsible for Liberia. Unhappily our government considers itself in a measure responsible for order in Hayti and San Domingo, and, in consequence, American marines have been landed at Port au Prince. The annexation of the whole island by the United States has often been predicted and by some Americans seems to be desired.

But it is to be hoped that we can compel respect for the rights of foreigners without resorting to a most undesirable solution, of which we should soon bitterly repent.

THE COLOR LINE AS IT APPEARS IN THE WEST INDIES

I recently visited five of the West India Islands, and I found conditions there so unlike those in the United States that I think my experience may be of interest to the readers of the American Missionary.

I first visited Trinidad, which is owned by the English and is among the most prosperous of the islands. It is approximately 50 miles square, and contains 350,000 people of whom 30,000 are English, 70,000 Coolies from East India, and the balance Negroes and Mulattoes. The principal city, Port of Spain, contains not far from 90,000. The leading industry of the island is raising cacao, and the present high price of chocolate makes this very profitable.

On Easter Sunday, I attended the Scotch Presbyterian church, which is the second church in the city in point of size and strength. There is a strong Scotch colony in the city, and this furnishes the substantial element, but I found the audience about one-half white and one-half colored. All were well dressed, and the colored people were scattered all through the church, though usually families sat together, which made the separate pews either white or colored, as the case may be. It was communion Sunday and one of the elders was a well-dressed and highly respectable colored man. I had a talk with the pastor after church and he told me that in all church matters there was no color line, though socially the elements were quite distinct.

The largest church on the island is the Cathedral of the Church of England, where the governor and the other English officials attend. This was crowded at the Easter service, and over three-fourths of the audience were colored. The majority of the choir was colored and the "musician" of our party who was present, pronounced it the finest choir she had ever heard. This praise may have been extravagant, but it was an unusually fine choir. There are two other Protestant churches in the city, the Methodist and Baptist, besides Catholic churches, and all of these have mixed audiences, with the colored people largely in the majority. I could not learn that there was a distinctively colored church in the city. The colored people and especially the children as we saw them on the streets, going to church, looked clean and neat, and walked off with as much spirit and self-respect as you would find in a company of white children.

There is no distinctive colored section of the city, as in American cities, but the colored people occupy houses in any part of the city where the rent is within their means. The Coolie population are mostly segregated in one section and some of the poorer Negroes live in or near that section.

The next day I visited the English Island of Barbados, and there I found the people poorer and the porportion of blacks greater, but there was the same free mingling of the two races. Many of the houses were two room shacks, and the usual rent of these was 30 cents a week. This gives a measures of the poverty of the people and the standard of living.

The next day brought us to to Martinique, a French island. The population here is almost entirely Catholic and with the Catholics there is no color line in religion. The colored people here were several shades whiter than at Barbados, which showed the free mixing of the races when the white element is French or Spanish, than when it is English.

A day later I visited the Danish island of St. Thomas, and here the people were nearly all colored and very black. The Catholic church seemed to be the most prominent.

From St. Thomas I went to American PortoRico, where the rainy season had just begun, and they were having their fourth rainy day. The second day I got a ride of 25 miles into the center of the island, and saw many of the typical PortoRicans. There are really four classes in Porto Rico, a few Americans who hold sundry offices and are engaged in trade of fruit culture; a few hundred Spaniards who own large tracts of land, and some sugar mills; a considerable population of Negroes and Mulattoes, congregated mostly in SanJuan and othe coast cities, and the real native Porto Ricans, who make up the great bulk of the people throughout the Island. These latter are the descendants of tlfe early Spanish blood, and perhaps some Negro, but if so the whole has been blended so long, that it is now quite a distinct type in which the white element greatly predominates.

When the Americans came to the island sixteen years ago, there was but very little color line, but now it is well established. It has probably been hastened by the presence of many officials from our Southern states. Even the Y. M. C. A. has been compelled to recognize it, and the fine new building is only for white young men. I am not just sure how the native Porto Rican does count, but I presume if he is well dressed and educated, he would count for white. However, in San Juan, the Negro is much more in evidence than the Porto Rican.

The history of Porto Rico leads me to consider what would happen in Trinidad if the Americans were to take charge of that island and give to it the benefit of our boasted civilization. Instead of the four strong churches in Port of Spain, now attended by whites and blacks, and all worshiping together amicably, we should have one or two weak white churches with a membership of 50 or 75 each, and colored people would all worship in churches of their own with colored preachers.

What is the reason for the difference between Trinidad and such cities as Charleston,.. Jacksonville. and. New York? Slavery existed in the West Indies the same as in America, but the slaves were freed about forty years earlier there than in America, and were freed by peaceful means and not by war. Will forty years more produce the same friendly feeling in America as in Trinidad? I doubt it, for the growth is not in that direction. It seems to me that much of the difference is to be found in the manner in which emancipation came about in America.

There was at the time intense hatred engendered by the war, and the Negro was looked upon as the cause of this war and hatred. That hatred is now passing away as between North and South, but the poor innocent Negro is no more loved than before. In fact, it seems at the South that the years increase the legal and social burdens that are heaped upon him. The north is quite anxious that the Negro should receive his legal rights in the South, but he is liken no better as a neighbor and citizen than in the south. The ordinary avenues of labor and business are clored to him, and only menial positions welcome him.

What of the future? Will the Negro be able to come up out of this position and make a place for himself? I think he will.. Intellectual and spiritual growth is slow, but in the development of races, nature allows plenty of time. The results of education do not appear in one generation, but require several generations for their full fruitage. Habits of industry, thrift and economy, good home life, honesty, culture and general intelligence of our highest civilization are the product only of centuries of training.

The Negro has been backward in entering the race, but he has started, and the conditions of success are favorable. The strong and talented leaders of any race do not come from those reared in wealth and luxury, but from those of humble birth who have their own way to make and who win their place in the world by meeting and overcoming obstacles. A moderate amount of opposition is no drawback to success but rather a stimulus. The Negro has a fine physique; he is getting an education; each generation helps to weed out the less worthy and bring to the front the more worthy and the obstacles in his way are but stepping stones to the more enterprising. Only a few gentrations will be needed to bring to the front such a company of strong, worthy colored men and women as will force recognition and will give to them a place among the more progressive and enlightened races of the world.—Rev. Lucine C. Warner, LL. D., in the American Missionary.

PROTEST SEIZURE OF HAITI

MASS. EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE ISSUES PROTEST TO PRESS AND AT MONTHLY MEETING, APPOINTS COMMITTEE TO PROTEST TO PRESIDENT WILSON

AGAINST FORCIBLE OCCUPATION OF REPUBLIC OF BLACKS.

(Boston Sunday Post, Aug. 8, 1915.)

When the news of the invasion of Hayti by the United States became known, a hurried meeting of the Massachusetts Equal Rights League officers was called at its headquarters adopted the following declaration:

"The Massachusetts Branch of the National Independent Equal Rights Leagues deprecates the action of the United States government in taking possession of and occupying by force of arms the capital of the Republic of Hayti. The defence given for this tyrannical procedure, namely, the disorder and constant warfare, would just as fully justify such invasion of the American republics, even at the present time.

"To thus attack the smallest American republic makes our government to appear before the world as a bully. To single out for such treatment the only republic of black people seems like drawing the color line. All loyal persons of African extraction have an interest in the independence of this, the only government of Africans in the Americas, and must protest this unwarrantable attack by force of arms upon its integrity. They are the more alarmed because the government is in the hands of southern men.

LEAGUE HOLDS MONTHLY MEETING.

Honor Memory of O'Reilly—Will Take Action as to Sumner Statue—Annual Election of Officers 2nd Tuesday in September—Sept. 22nd Favored for Annual Meeting.

(Boston Traveler, August 11, 1915.)

The administration policy toward Hayti was censured yesterday at a meeting of the Greater Boston Branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League at 49 Cornhill. It was voted to appoint a committee of five to send a memorial to President Wilson protesting against the seizure of the government of the little republic by the naval and military forces of the United States.

The 25th anniversary of the death of John Boyle O'Reilly, the "Champion of liberty for all the races of man" was noted by a resolution of appreciation for his friendship to Colored Americans in their struggle for equal rights, and for his work in securing the Crispus Attucks monument

COMMEND NEW JERSEY.

The League commended the Literary of the Jethro-Presbyterian church for its mass meeting to protest against the "Birth of a Nation" play at Atlantic City, N. J. An original poem by Mr. G. R. Margetson was accepted as the League rallying poem.

A committee of three consisting of Messrs. Trotter, Brigham and Benjamin was appointed to see the proper authorities to the end that some sentiment expressing his principles and life works be carved on the back of the pedestal of the statue of Charles Sumner.

Several editorials against lynching were read from the Boston Traveler, and by vote the secretary was instructed to thank the editor for his stand against the American atrocities. The committee on Hayti are Messrs. Margie Thornton, Brigham, Margetson, Cranford, Trotter and Whaley.

Letter to Boston Traveler.

HEADQPARTERS OF THE NATIONAL INDEPENDENT EQUAL RIGHTS LEAGUE.
Boston Branch, 49 Cornhill,
August 11, 1915

To the Managing Editor of the Boston Traveler-Herald,

Dear Mr. Gruening:

By formal vote at its regular monthly meeting, the Greater Boston branch of the National Independent Equal Rights League determined to send to you both personally and as editor of the Traveler its thanks for the noble stand taken editorially against the barbarous crime of lynching human beings as perpetuated in the southern section of the United States of America. We appreciate the out-spoken character of your denunciation of these white mob murderers, whose fiendish deeds are more reprehensible than the worst crime charged against their helpless victims. And this is to say nothing of the contemptible cowardice of thousands of men in their murderous attack upon one or two individuals after they had been disarmed by the police authority.

These collective mob-murderers of untried prisoners not only undermine the moral character of our American people but they instill in the people the spirit of blood-thirstiness, and sew the seeds of disrespect for law. These lynchings also deprive our republic of any rightful efforts against wrong to humanity elsewhere and cause such protest but to emphasize our own disgrace before the civilized world.

You are rendering a noble service to the cause of humanity. May you live long in this service and may your tribe increase among American journalists.

Yours for justice,
(Signed) W. M. TROTTER, Sec.

Annual Election.

It was decided to hold annual election of officers at next regular meeting, the second Tuesday in September. September 22 was favored for date of national meeting.

FRANKLIN JOHNSON'S NEWS LETTER.

Baltimore, June 10.—Seated in the library of his home, 1808 McCulloh street, the other day, Bishop John Hurst said that he had seen many things that profoundly interested him during his recent visit to the West Indies and to British Guinea. He described the progress that the A. M. E. church is making down there and said that in the French colony of Martinique race linen were not known, all being regarded as Frenchmen.

"The ship that brought me to New York," he said, "was the Rio Janeiro, which belongs to the government of Brazil. In that country race lines are not known when it comes to individual fitness, as was indicated by the fact that a number of the officers on the ship are men of African descent. I was especially impressed by my visit to the Island of Martinique, where I witnessed a farewell to several thousand men who had been recruited for the French army. A big pavilion had been erected in the public square near the statue of the Impress and a large concourse of people was out to bid bon voyage to the troopers. The governor general and other leading officials and genuine patriotism prevailed. There were colored and white men among the troopers and not only did each company have men of both races in its ranks, but a number of the others were men of the race. No man was known as a "white" or "colored" one, but all were loyal Frenchmen. The French motto of liberty, equality and fraternity was the ruling spirit. I was agreeably impressed by the fact that the greater portion of the business of Martinique is done by colored merchants. White merchants employ colored clerks and book-keepers and many of the employees of the government are colored.

In the government service there is no race segregation as obtains at Washington.

"While in St. Thomas I called upon Hon. Christopher H. Payne, the American consul there. He is popular with all classes of people and is regarded as a most capable official. I spent a delightful afternoon with him and was charmed by his graciousness. He and Dr. Booker T. Washington were boys together in West Virginia, and the latter gave me a letter of introduction to him.

"The work of the African Methodist church is flourishing in British Guinea, under the direction of Rev. P. A. Luckie and others. We have a number of flourishing stations in the three provinces into which the colony is divided. At Georgetown, where we have two churchs, a farewell reception was tendered me. Mayor Dias, one of the speakers, was especially fulsome in his praise and ventured the hope that more and more men of the race would enter business pursuits, instead of confining their activities along the higher lines almost exclusively to the profession. There is practically no business being done by the race in British Guinea, but there are a number of capable men in the professions who have been educated in England. In Guinea, like in most of the West Indies, the chief industry is raising sugar cane. The wages are extremely low, varying from 30 cents a day for men in Guinea to 20 cents a day in Barbadoes. In Dutch Guinea the government has signed an agreement to give $3,000 a year toward the expenses of a big school. British Guinea has about 3,000 coolies, 130,000 Negroes and 120,000 whites.

Our church is greatly indebted to the foresight and zeal of the late Rev. R. A. Sesley, who established the work in Barbadoes and other places in the West Indies. I must say that the prospects down that way look bright for African Methodist."

HAITI GIVEN MORE TIME FOR ACTION ON TREATY

U. S. Plans to Extend Financial Protectorate for Ten Years.

Washington, August 26.—Haiti's parliament has been given until September 17 to act on the proposed treaty by which the Untied States would extend a financial protectorate over the unstable little republic for ten years. In the meantime the American marines will continue to occupy the principal cities of the island to prevent recurrence of anarchy.

Charge Davis of the American legation at Port au Prince had asked that the treaty draft be approved not later than tonight, when parliament was scheduled to adjourn. The Haitients protested against limiting their debate on the proposal and the charge reported today that when they arranged to extend the session of parliament until September 17 he did not press for immediate action.

Before the proposed convention can become effective it must be ratified by the United States senate. The executive departments have arranged, however, to resort to a modus vivendi or temporary working arrangement as soon as the Haitien parliament accepts the draft now before it. Some of the Haitien customs houses already have been taken over by Rear Admiral Capperton, commanding the naval forces, and supervision of the others will be assumed when the time comes. Then American officers will set apart portions of the revenue received for the expenses of the island government, reserve sufficient to meet interest on the foreign debt and see that any remainder is expended on public works or retained in the treasury.

If this arrangement works satisfactorily officials believe there will be no difficulty in securing prompt ratification of the formal treaty when congress meets in December.

Race Problem - 1915

West Indies

"HAITI OBJECT OF ABUSE AND FORCE AT HANDS OF U. S."

Mr. Raymond Villaire Cabeche, Former Member of Chamber of Deputies, Makes Serious Charges Against Americans

ARMED-INTERVENTION, ALTHOUGH "FRIENDLY"

American Marines Accused of Criminally Assaulting Women Murdering Inoffensive Persons and Hauling Down Haitian Flag—To Oppose Ratification of Haitian-American Treaty Before the United States Senate.

Charges of a most serious and sensational nature have been prepared for presentation to the United States Senate, involving United States officials and troops, by Dr. Raymond Villaire Cabeche, who recently resigned his seat in the Haitian Chamber of Deputies, and who is in Washington to protest against the ratification by the United States Senate of the Haitian-American treaty, which is objectionable to the majority of Hatians, and which Dr. Cabeche charges is detrimental to the most legitimate rights of the natives.

In his presentation of Haiti's case as the outcome of the American occupation and the Haitian-American treaty, Dr. Cabeche charges the United States troops with murder and other acts of lawlessness equal to those that have scandalized Mexico in recent years. How inoffensive Haitians were shot dead by American marines, how women of good reputation were criminally assaulted by Americans, how, despite protestations of friendship American blue-packets seized the public buildings, arms and ammunition, confiscated the Haitian flotilla and hauled down the Haitian flag in many places, is graphically told by Dr. Cabeche.

It is related that on one occasion a Hatian who was deaf and unable to speak English, was seized with fear at the sight of American marines, who were making gestures; that he started to run and was shot in the breast. It is also charged that editors of newspapers having the temerity to protest against outrages committed, were arrested and sentenced to four months in prison or fined $200 in gold.

Dr. Cabeche tells of atrocities committed by American troops and gives reasons why he is opposed to the ratification by the United States Senate of the Haitian-American treaty in a comprehensive presentation of Haiti's case, which in part is as follows:

To the Senate of the Great Repcblic of North America.

Honorable Senators:

Your honorable body has established the reputation of elevating to the dignity of worship, love of justice and respect for right. It is this that encourages me to bring to your knowledge the following facts, persuaded, that you will sustain that exalted reputation by the benevolent attention and consideration which I beg you most respectfully to give to them. The facts I have to state, concern Haiti. Just at the time when the Entene-allies are shedding their blood in the name of the independence of smaller states, in a holocaust for the definitive equilibrium of the nations, for the benefit of universal democracy and for civilization, this little black republic of which I am a son, has just been the object of abuse by force. By whom? By the government of the great starred republic, of that Republic which boasts justly of having the monopoly of the highest principle and sentiments with which Nations, in their dealings with one another ought always to be inspired: Liberty, justice, morality, greatness of soul.

The American Government ordered an armed intervention in Haiti, although the friendly relations existing between the two countries had not undergone any change whatever. On the 29th of July of the present year, the people of Port-au-Prince awoke to find that the city was invaded by American troops who had disembarked clandestinely during the night, a few kilometres from the city. This proceeding keenly alarmed the people and caused, quite naturally, a painful suspicion in their minds, as to the intention of the invaders. Captain Beach of the United States Navy, representing Admiral Caperton on land, with the object of reassuring the people, made to them the following solemn declaration:

"We have come to Haiti in the name of humanity to restore order, to protect families, the life of citizens and property. The United States does not intend to injure the independence of Haiti nor to interfere with its internal affairs. The intervention will continue until peace has been completely re-established.. We shall be happy to be able to withdraw immediately thereafter."

I must also place before you the following proclamation issued by Vice Admiral Caperton:

Proclamation:

I have received instructions from the Government of the United States to give assurance to the Haitian people that the United States have no object in view except that of assuring, strengthening and assisting to maintain Haitian independence and the establishment of a stable and strong government by the Haitian people. in their effort to realize this object. The intention of the United States is o keep their forces in Haiti only so ng as it will be necessary to obtain iis result."

Outrage on Honor and Morality.

The Haitian people who were somewhat quieted by these two declarations, were seized with the greatest indignation. The occupation was extended, the blue jackets sieze the public buildings and fortresses, the arms and ammunition were carried away, the Haitian flotilla was confiscated, the national flag was hauled down in certain places.

It was even said that at the "Dessalines Barracks" the shaft of the flag of one regiment, the National flag, was torn to pieces under the feet of the bluejackets; and the emblem trampled. Citizens as well as soldiers were disarmed, and the latter were dismissed. Haitian blood was begininng to flow without justifiable reason. An inoffensive man shot down in front of the Postoffice. Another, Camille Sarpris, while on his way to mass one Sunday morning at 4 o'clock, was called by an American patrol. Mr. Surpris being deaf understood nothing; and, seized with fear at the sight of Americans who were making great gestures, ran away. The patrol fired and the unfortunate man was shot in the breast. Houses were searched in the hope of finding arms. Some bluejackets, impelled by carnal passions, entered during the night certain houses and made attempts indecent assaults on females, respectable people belonging to the aristocracy.

This outrage on honor and morality elicited from Senator Baussan an interpellation of the Cabinet.

"The undersigned Senator, deeply moved by the actual situation, asked the Senate to interpellate the entire Cabinet on:

1st. The general politics of the Country.

2nd. The murders committed by the Americans on several defenseless Haitians.

3rd. The violation of the residences of many peaceful families for the purpose of abusing women."

All this happened during the interregnum.

The government is reconstituted. The outrageous proceedings of the occupation continue. The Custom houses are seized by force and guarded by the bluejackets. Their personnels are obliged to quit the places with indignation while protesting against the frightful and brutal character of the act.

Were there only bad employes in these Custom houses, of whom it was necessary to get rid? You will judge by the following declaration: "In occupying this (Custom house) of Port-au-Prince, the Admiral tried to make the Manager M. Mexile understand that his integrity was recognized, that the best information had been furnished about him. When we went there M. Mexile protested and left the office with the employes." (Interview at the American legation of an officer representing, Admiral Caperton on land, published by the Joural Le Matin, Sept. 3rd, 1915). From that moment the customs receipts were collected by American collectors, and "according to instructions from Washington, were placed in the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti to the account of Admiral Caperton."

President Protests Against American Occupation.

The President of Haiti then addressed to the Haitian people a proclamation in which he protested against these acts of the occupation. Senator Morpeau protested and put a resolution before the Senate. Deputy Joachi Jean Baptiste in the House, did the same thing. The Council of Discipline of the order of lawyers also protested. As a reply, American maritial law was proclaimed. On account of this outrageous act, Senator Martineau immediately tendered his resignation. A court of summary justice was instituted by the Americans on their own authority upon Haitian territory and superseded, so to speak that of the country. No one was allowed to be on the street after nine o'clock at night. Journalists, defend[illegible] all the strength of their soul [illegible]h their patriotism their vio[illegible] country, were, for strange rea[illegible]s, arrested, led by force, summarily condemned and sentenced to four months in prison or to pay a fine of mille goures (nearly $200, American gold) because at the appearance of their newspaper, they failed to send a copy regularly to the American "Grand Prevot." I have cited the case of M. M. Elie Guerin and Felix Viard, the former editor, and the latter manager of the Journal Haiti Integrale They paid the fine and were liberated But the newspaper has been suppressed by order of the "Grand Privot," Alexander S. William, Captain of Infantry of the United States Navy. M. George Sylvain, a very eminent Haitian, a lawyer, Judge of the Court of Cassation, a former Minister of Haiti to France, officer of the Legion of Honor editor of the Journal La Patrie was also summoned to appear before the "Grand Prevot," whose authority he declined to recognize.

A new portion of the issue of papermoney ordered by the Haitian Government arrived from the States on a Dutch steamer, and was seized. Last year also, five hundred thousand dollars, money of the Haitian people, intrusted to the National Bank of the Republic of Haiti, was removed from that institution by bluejackets and transferred to the man-of-war Machias, then carried away to the United States where it is still kept. There is no money to pay the employes of the Government. People are dying from hunger.

Senators Morpeau and Desir had their sticks brutally snatched from them, in the street; the bluejackets wishing to find out if the sticks contained swords. One morning it was learned that Senator Laraque, caught on the street by an American patrol after nine o'clock at night, was led to a place of confinement where he was compelled to pass the night. Mr. Guitterez, an employee in the firm of C. Mevs, and Mr. Osso, ex-attache to the military house of the late President Guillame, were beaten in the street for the delight of the bluejackets.

Might Took Place of Right.

Opportunity was afforded to observe not only deeds of brutality, but also acts of indecency. At Saint-Marc, the bluejackets are quartered in the railway station, bordering on a street much frequented. I saw some in very short bathing pants, washing and hanging clothes in the open air and in full view of persons of all classes. Moreover, respectable families of the quarter are more than indignant at this exhibition of Adam's garb. But what could be done? Might took place of right.

In other towns of the republic some regrettable incidents have also happened. There was not, however, on the part of the inhabitants, any hos-

[illegible]rdly any Amer[illegible]ican interests are not [illegible] great in Haiti. They may be epresented by the National railroad of Haiti, but it is not known that the contract for constructing the railroad is in litigation and a delay has been asked in order to settle this affair. Did

we torpedo American or foreign ships whose destruction has caused the loss of numerous American lives? Did we massacre any foreign elements whatever? Have the interests on Haitian debts not been paid?

In the general expose of the situation of the Republic of Haiti for the year 1915, the following may be read: "We are convinced, morevover, that the government of the United States will itself approve of this attitude as soon as it has been exactly informed of the actual situation of a country whose administration, far from leaving its foreign debts, regularly existing, long unpaid, has been able to pay the interest in advance, a country whose financial and economic situation is actually altered only by the fortuitous circumstances of the European War, and which, even in this respect, has legitimate reasons based upon formal contracts of relying upon the practical and of a State Bank whose obligations are evident." (Extract from a note addressed Dec. 15th 1914, to the American legation, Port-au-Prince, by Mr. Borno, Minister of oreign Relations). "No power can't threaten Haiti for payment, which strictly speaking may somewhat explain the American intervention in the name of the Monroe Doctrine." (Journal Haiti Integrale).

Is it on account of our civil wars? They injure only ourselves. The foreigner has never been harmed, on the contrary he has been benefitted by them. He lends to the revolution or to the government which fights against it, and the money is repaid four-fold.

Is it because of the violation of the rench legation That is the work of a furious mob bent on taking vengeance on a Chief Magistrate whom it accused of massacre on July 27, last, a massacre, which it may be said en passant, would not have occurred, if some rebels did not go and attack the President in his palace.

The Monroe Doctrine.

Is it to safeguard the Monroe Doctrine? Quite long ago, in order to induce the American people to accept the protectorate of the United States over over Haiti, there has been no cessation in putting forward the danger to which the Monroe Doctrine is exposed on account of frequent revolutions of the Haitian people. Interested persons have claimed and still claim in different ways that Haiti will become, as matters have been going, the prey of a European nation, if the United States does not intervene there and take in hand the direction of the affairs of the country.

With respect to the Monroe Doctrine, this is what the honorable Senator Morrill said in 1871: "There are many persons who claim to find in a simple decuaration much more than it contains. It is thus conceived namely, that America was ceasing to be a field of colonization for Europeans. It is not that we ourselves wish to colonize. No, President Monroe desired simply that all parts of the American continent should have a chance to become inedependent and to be given republican institutions, if they be willing, unless, in such a case, European Governments intervene and prevent them from realizing their intention. The doctrine does not mean that we must become masters of all the neighboring countries within our reach and above all, is was not susceptible of that selfish independent and to be given republi- vultures should be driven from the American continent so that the American eagle might grasp the prey. The pretext that we need Samana Harbor covers simply our real scheme, namely, that it is not Santo-Domingo, but Haiti in reality that we want, and which we covet. The harbors there can, indeed, render us service, for they are good and less distant."

At one time it is Germany, at another it is France, that is suspected of wishing to take possession of Haiti.

Treaty Imposed by Bayonet and Cannon.

Honorable Senators, it was not enough to have violated Haitian territory, to have, without just cause, outraged many citizens, it was still necessary to cover with humiliation the little Republic of Haiti by imposing upon it a treaty which is prejudicial to its sovereignty and independence which, it has been declared, should be respected. For want of a better term I say treaty, because in order to have a treaty, liberty of consent, absence of error, of duplicity and of violence is necessary. But when it has not been left to one of the contracting parties oppressed by the other, to act in the fullness of his independence, to weigh the consequences of his obligations and to appreciate the extent of the sacrifice which he should make, no one can claim that there is a treaty. The Haytien-American treaty has been imposed upon the Republic of Haiti by means of bayonet and cannon. Therefore there is violence. According to the principles of international law, such a treaty is void. Is it not these same principles of international law that the American Government has actually invoked in order to bring Germany to respect the rights of people? How then could it possibly forget them in its dealings with Haiti? The Hatian American treaty is prejudicial to the sovereignty and independence of the Replblic of Haiti. It does brutal violence to the Constitution and the existing laws of the country. Can you, then, without doing violence to your conscience and high sense of right, approve and ratify such a treaty, when Article XV stipulates that "The present treaty shall be approved and ratified by the high contracting parties in conformity to their respective laws."

Let us examine certain articles of the treaty. Article II imposes upon Haiti an American General Receiver who will have charge of the administration of the customs, and an American financial adviser who will have control of the financial administration. "This is the intervention of a foreign power in the National Administration, one which constitutes an impairment of the sovereignty and independence of the Republic of Haiti, and is incompatible with the fundamental principles of our Constitption."

The committee of the Haitian Senate appointed to examine the treaty has said, concerning the same article: "In the custom houses of the Republic, as well as in the Receiver's Office, there will not be a single nomination made by the Haitian Government."

Republic Has Aided United States.

It is to the rank of a vassal nation, Honorable Senators, that the Haitian-American treaty reduces a little State worthy of a better lot—a State whose history is replete with sublime, heroic deeds. It gained its independence at the price of the purest blood of our ancestors. Before having gained our independence we had assisted the Americans at the siege of Savannah in obtaining theirs. To-day as a recompense the Government of the United States wishes to place Haiti back under **tutelage. Ha, President Wilson**, who in a speech at Mobile, Ala., said, concerning the sister republics of Central and South America: "We can be their intimate friends only by treating them as equals." We contributed ardently with our blood and our money to the independence of Venezuela, of Colombia and Equador. Assistance was sent by the Republic of Haiti to the people of Greece while struggling for independence and liberty. Haiti alone, during the administration of Gen. Grant, dared to protest against the annexation of the Republic of Santo Domingo, and her voice was heard in the American Congress."

Is it not blemishing the glorious past of this little nation to impose upon it so outrageous a treaty? What, in the future, will people throughout the world think of your nation—"the proudest on the globe, the standard-bearer of international liberty and justice, the most fervent propagator of universal peace"—of that nation which has engraved upon its coin, "In God We Trust" (God punishes in justice)—of that nation which seems to teach the world, by the gigantic Statue of Liberty standing at the entrance of the harbor of New York, that the great Republic of the United States is the classical land of liberty?

Think of it!

Not only ministers have resigned. I, the representative of Pilate, having taken the oath in conformity of Article 67 of our Constitution, to maintain the rights of the Haitian people and to be faithful to the Constitution, was obliged to resign, as a mark of protest, in order not to perjure myself by voting for a treaty which is detrimental to the most legitimate rights of the Haitian people and which impairs the sovertignty and independence of my country. I have come to the United States specially to protest once more before your honorable body and the American people against that violation of the rights of people. Representative Necker Lanoix of Port-de-Paix has also resigned. Other deputies opposed the treaty, but in vain.

I hasten to assure you that I am not absolutely against every treaty between the United States and Haiti. I am in favor of a treaty which does not injuriously affect the dignity, sovereignty and independence of my country. This is also the feeling of all true Haitians. Haiti is not at all hostile, as has been said, to every agreement with the United States. An honorable and benevolent assistance would be welcomed with enthusiasm and gratitude by the Haitian people, for the country is tired of these senseless and profitless wars promoted, from time to time, by designing and unscrupulous politicians whose chief concern is, as soon as they have come into power, to loot, with their partisans, the public treasury. The country is ardently longing for peace, without which no appreciable development is possible. But the Haitian-American treaty emanated from the sole will of the Government of the United States, imposed by force on the weak Republic of Haiti, and, far from establishing a solid friendship between the two republics, will engender hatred toward the American people and will always be a source of friction between Haitians and Americans in Haiti. In such a state of mind, if an opportunity should present itself, the Haitians will not neglect to avail themselves of it, in order to put an end to the intolerable humiliation to which their country has been subjected. Then the American Government will be obligated to meet the situation with wholesale massacre throughout the country.

Is it not preferable, now, since there is yet time to find an equitable means to satisfy the respective desires of the two parties? Do you want the means? The Haitian Senate Committee, appointed to examine the treaty, has provided it in the report which it has submitted. It will be wise to adopt the views of the committee which was composed of men competent and animated by the best sentiments both for their country and for the United States. This is the advice which I submit, Honorable Senators, to your wisdom and sentiments of honor and of loyalty to high principles.

U. S. FORCES WILL RETAIN CONTROL IN HAITI AFFAIRS

No Casualties Are Added to Two Americans and Seven Haitiens

Address 8-1-15

DISORDER IS DEEP-ROOTED

Admiral's Forces Will Probably Stay Until Right of Supervision Is Gained

WASHINGTON, July 31.—The United States apparently is preparing for a prolonged stay of American naval forces in Port Au Prince, Haiti, where two bluejackets and six Haitiens have been killed in fighting which followed the landing of Rear Admiral Caperton's forces to protect foreign lives and property. The battleship Connecticut sailed from Philadelphia today with 500 marines to reinforce the 400 marines and bluejackets guarding the city. The transport Hancock and the hospital ship Solace will follow to the Haitien port and other aid will be sent as necessary.

Admiral Caperton believes further disturbances are likely throughout Haiti, and it is understood the American forces will not be withdrawn until a definite settlement insuring lasting peace has been reached.

Admiral Caperton advised the navy department today that six Haitiens were killed and two wounded in the engagement Thursday night in which the two American seamen lost their lives. Disarming of the natives continued, he said, and quiet generally prevailed both at Port Au Prince and Cape Haitien, where American forces also are on guard.

Political activity resulting from the overthrow of the Guillaume government, the report said, already had manifested itself, the revolutionary committee having declared for Rosalvo Bobo, leader of the recent unsuccessful revolt at Cape Haitien. The Blot party at Cape Haitien has declared for an aspirant named Baurand. There are many unemployed men in and around Port Au Prince, complicating the situation.

No representations by the State Department as a result of the overthrow of the government and killing of President Guillaume will be made, it was officially stated today, until a new government is established with which the United States can deal. As soon as possible, however, the United States government is expected to renew its efforts to negotiate a treaty whereby the United States would manage the finances of Haiti and secure the right to intervene in the interest of peace.

Wilson Receives Official Reports of Haiti Affairs

CORNISH, N. H., July 31—Developments in Haiti during the last few days, resulting in the landing of American marines and Blue Jackets at Port Au Prince, were considered today by President Wilson. He received word from Secretary Daniels that the battleship Connecticut with 500 marines had been sent to the scene of the trouble and also messages transmitted by Rear Admiral Caperton giving details of the fighting in which two American Blue Jackets were killed. The President made no comment.

"It was said at the summer whitehouse," that the question was being handled in Washington by the navy and state departments, but that the President was being kept in close touch with the situation.

Unofficial reports of the sinking of the Leyland liner Iberian by a German submarine, with the loss of one American life were conveyed to President Wilson during the day. In the absence of further details and officials advices, he refused to discuss the incident.

Mr. Wilson spent the entire afternoon automobiling with members of his family. He rode for more than 70 miles.

Race Problem – 1915
West Indies

THE U. S. INVASION OF HAITI MOST CRUEL AND UNJUST

National Government Has Reproduced Tragedies in Black Republic Equal to Southland

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON SEEMS TO FAVOR IT

Nation's Executive Refuses to Utter One Word Regarding Barbarious Practices on Island Folk by Military Forces

The United States has invaded and seized Haiti and has reproduced tragedies equalled to those practiced in the Southland, yet the official statements (verbal and written) from Washington declare that the United States has no ulterior designs against the territorial integrity and independence of Haiti.

President Wilson has deliberately refused to interfere with the Mexican situation, but has uttered not one word in behalf of the black republic. A Haitian who risked his life through American lines has told us some of the deliberately unfriendly acts which have been committed by the United States marines and sailors. They are as follows:

"Landing of hundreds of marines under cover of darkness at an isolated and unfortified place on the coast within a few miles of the capital.

"Making a surprise attack on the arsenal posts in Port-au-Prince and seizing them.

"Disarming the unresisting soldiers, thanks to the superior numbers of these marines and because the Haitian soldiers were not aware that any state of war existed between the United States government and theirs.

"Taking possession of all the military posts in Port-au-Prince and seizing the depots of arms and ammunition.

"Seizing all the forts, especially that known as Fort National, which commands the harbor and city of Port-au-Prince.

"Seizing and occupying the Casernes Dessalines, which are the national armory.

"Tearing down and literally trampling on the Haitian national flag, which was on that building, and hoisting the American Stars and Stripes in its stead. (N. B.—American newspapers have reproduced cuts illustrating the occupation of these Casernes by United States marines, and with the American flag floating above them.)

"Seizing and dismantling the Haitian gunboat Le Pacifique and dismissing the crew.

"Seizing all the customs houses of Haiti and installing American officers as revenue officers.

Intimidate Editors.

"Arresting, threatening, fining and even imprisoning Haitian editors whenever any article was published which, in the opinion of an American 'grand provost' that has been appointed by an American admiral, such articles were considered criticisms of the policy of the United States. Elie Gwerin, editor of Haiti Integrals, was twice arrested by United States marines who forcibly took possession of his printing office, armed with rifles and revolvers, and sentenced to 130 days' imprisonment solely because of his 'stubborn and persistent' refusal to obey the orders of the 'grand provost,' who insisted that every editor should send a copy of every issue of their respective paper to his office free of charge. I am quoting from the circular sent out by this 'grand provost' to the other members of the Haitian press. The business manager was fined $500 for the same offense, and the printer and publisher was allowed to go free on his promise never to print that paper any more.

"Completely disarming and carrying away all the cannon, arms, ammunition and machine guns which Haiti possessed for its national defense, and which were deposited at the national palace

"Reducing the bodyguard of the president of Haiti to only seven soldiers with rifles but without ammunition.

"Occupying all the positions of military strategic importance in all the coast towns of Haiti."

Such barbarous treatment of a weak nation is contrary to the laws of civilized nations and Congress should repudiate the sanction of a treaty which the United States has wrung from Haiti under such compulsory methods.

TAKING UP FOR HAITI.

Elsewhere in this issue is a communication from Alonzo P. Holly, M. D., a son of the late Bishop James Theodore Holly, D. D., LL. D., of Haiti, for the Protestant Episcopal church of the United States, wherein he deplores the stand taken by our country in Haiti. The gentleman is further distinguished by having been consul from Haiti to Bana.

In order to make his contentions good he has this to say: "It may interest you to know that Dr. John R. Hurst and all of the presiding elders of the Eleventh Episcopal district have recently adopted resolutions condemning the actions of the United States at their recent (October 18) Pre-Centennial Rally in Jacksonville, Fla."

The above seemingly preponderance of condemnation is apparently overwhelming, and from a special viewpoint it is overwhelming enough. Haiti is absolutely independent, and to the glory and honor of our own white people, who are considered sometimes rapacious and unmindful of the claims of Negroes, they have lived beside the little republic for more than a hundred years, long before its advocates were born, and at no time have they, the white people of this country, attempted to disturb the autonomy of the island. We think this is sufficient earnest of good will and good intentions.

Some notion of greed may actuate the action of our country at this time. This is a bare possibility. And admitting that, that country is a tempting morsel, it is not more so today than it was years ago. Nor will we forget that there's more of a disposition this day to spread out, to grow—than in the days of George Washington. Really it is this change of disposition that's feared. However, the word of the country is out that no harm shall befall the republic, consequently we should rejoice in the fact that the country is to be saved to itself, from itself.

That it will be saved from itself sounds idly to those unacquainted with the happenings of the recent past. Nor do we claim intimate acquaintance but we know and the world knows that those happenings were the very worst in the history of civilization. We can not see how they could be condoned or excused. Haiti has become a nation of murderers, "regicides" as mean as it sounds. Its governments have been as play—cruel play—as a cat plays with a mouse—teasing their executives a bit, then foully murdering them, and calling it war. If this Lucretia Borgia situation were the end of all, it would not be so bad.

We said sometime ago that independent governments are independent in themselves, but not wholly so as it concerns other governments. It's too long a story to verify this proposition. But careful thinking men can at once see the interdependence, or its necessity, and not that a government has the whole say concerning the lives and property of strangers within its gates. And unless we see it in some such manner we fail to get the gist of the business.

We cannot see much excuse for Dr. Holly's argument unless there have been suppressed facts, unless the country is not inured to political brigandage, unless the communities teem with commerce, and the contented husbandmen garners his crops in a security as of God such as our country knows. A white republic or black republic not guaranteeing all of these things is not worthy of the name.

HAITIAN SENATE RATIFIES TREATY

Provisions Give United States Practical Control of Little Islond Republic For Ten Years.

Port au Prince, Haiti, November 18.—The Haitian Senator has ratified the treaty that the United States practically forced it to accept.

The treaty practically gives the United States control of this country for the next ten years, as America will control the collection of customs, disbursements and the constabulary will be in control of native officers.

The provisions of the treaty are highly objectionable to certain classes here, except the Dartinguenave government, and it is hoped that the United States Senate will refuse to ratify it.

Patriotic Haitians realize that their country is in need of a stable government, but they do not take kindly to a treaty, which practically robs it of sovereignty and turns over the administration of affairs to a country that treats its colored citizens from a prejudicial standpoint.

The fact that Haiti may not undertake any financial measures without the consent of the American government is not liked here, especially since it is believed to be a cog in the policy of dollar diplomacy, which has grown in force since the completion of the Panama Canal.

Arthur Bailly Blanchord, the American Minister, arrived here Wednesday after an absence of several months.

HAITI SATISFIES FRANCE —WARSHIP DEPARTS

Paris, Nov. 30.—The French Government has recognized the Haitian Government of President Dartiguenave, having received a satisfactory response to its protest.

France protested against the treatment of French citizens in Haiti, and in particular against the violation of the French Legation last July, when Guillaume, then President of Haiti, was removed from the Legation building by a mob and shot.

The French cruiser Descartes, which has been in Haitian waters for several months, has been ordered to depart.

REVOLT IN WEST I. ISLAND LAID TO MISRULE OF DANES

Islander Tells of Oppressive Conditions There and Overbearing Autocratic Authority Over Inhabitants

FEAR FOR D. H. JACKSON, LEADER OF UPRISING

By Summoning U. S. Warships Officials Hope to Cower Disgruntled People

Who Have Arisen Under Patriotic Son to End Enslaving Conditions

The daily papers of New York have published accounts of a serious colored uprising in the Danish West Indies.

The belief was expressed that German influence has agitated the people against the Government, because Germany needs those islands for a coaling station, and that an appeal was made to the United States for warships.

People who know Danish West Indians will agree that there is nothing pro-German about them.

There is no patriotism to beat that of the Danish West Indian for the blood-red flag known as the Danebrog.

They believe that merely because they were born in those islands that, good or bad, there is no other country as good as Denmark, and no better people than the Danes.

Some years ago the United States offered to purchase those islands.

Five million dollars was the sum to be paid.

Judging from the conditions which have existed out there since the sale question proved a failure, I am convinced that any wealthy American citizen could maintain these islands far better than they are now.

The real cause of the trouble is due in the first place to the bad management of non-progressive Danes, greedy Irish and native planters, and a few would-be wealthy merchants who have for years and years reaped the profits of the lands, making no provisions for the future, with utter

(Continued from Page 1.)

indifference to the fast approaching poverty in the face of the natives.

Worse than this is the autocratic rule of the Danish officials, whose determination is to usurp the rights of the people.

The Danes do not discriminate, at least this is their claim.

They go about this by inviting a hob and nob association of the better class of natives, which should include planters, merchants, clerks and pure black Negroes, with a heavy bank roll at their service.

And as long as they can carry out successfully this form of social hypocrisy, 75 per cent of the natives are oppressed and made to feel that they belong to the lower class.

There is a terrible ban placed on public opinion.

I would not dare to write as I do now in any of our local newspapers.

Suppose it happens that a member of the upper class did some harm to one of the lower, and the matter is taken to court, the judge is usually disposed to decide in favor of the former individual.

This applies to all cases. We have no jury, the judge settles all matters, and defending attorneys are as scarce as a needle in a haystack.

It has been said that the "Home Government" never knew anything of the condition existing in the colonies until some months ago, when the colored man, D. Hamilton Jackson, told it in the Rigsday or Danish Parliament.

Does it seem possible that the people of Denmark could be so little interested in the welfare of the colonies they claim to love?

A Danish friend of mine once told me that the islands were not self-supporting.

If this be true, why does Denmark keep them?

When the United States offered to buy them, why did they use every effort to reject the treaty?

Just imagine three little islands, with a population of hardly thirty thousand, whose Governor draws a salary that comes pretty near the sum paid the Governor of this great State of New York!

The Danes scramble like dogs for official positions out there; draw fat salaries, and suck the fat of the land. The stranger landing on those shores would believe that Denmark is at war, or that the poor natives were savages.

There is an armed force of white gendarmes patrolling the streets day and night, and for this duty they are well paid.

The native young men on the other hand are drilled and compelled to serve in the militia and fire brigade corps without pay.

This is the only part of the West Indies where the natives are denied the right to police their own homes.

The gendarmes, with few exceptions, are illiterate men of the lower type of Danes.

They are terrible drunkards, and contribute largely to immorality, and in this particular our women get little protection.

There is some talk about improvement in the hospitals and sanitary conditions, yet there is no proof that any effort is being made along those lines.

And because the impoverished natives are at last awake to their conditions, they are hollering aloud for United States warships, under cover of whose guns they will better be able to force the people into submission and tell all the world that they are not civilized.

My greatest fear is for D. Hamilton Jackson, the fearless leader, who recently went to Denmark to lay the conditions before the King.

It was only a few weeks ago when that young man passed through this city on his return home and spoke to Danish West Indians in this country.

No one knows what has occurred since this report.

If this agitation bears sufficient weight to arouse the indignation of the Danish officials, do Danish West Indians in this country realize the position of Jackson?

An investgaition into the rights of the people will be considered just too late.

And the thought to unite and appeal to the President of the United States, asking for a square deal for our oppressed and impoverished natives at home, would be the last thing that would occur to the minds of the four thousand Danish West Indians in America.

President Will Act Officially Regarding Haiti

WASHINGTON, April 29.—President Wilson has determined to make another effort to straighten out tangled political and fiscal affairs in Haiti and has chosen as special commissioner to investigate conditions there Paul Fuller of New York, who executed a confidential mission for the administration in Mexico several months ago.

Mr. Fuller's mission follows that of an inquiry conducted recently by a special commission headed by former Governor Fort, of New Jersey.

Governor Fort's commission remained in Haiti but a short time and made a report to Secretary Bryan, the contents of which never were made public. It was reported, however, that ideas of the commission and of Arthur Bailly-Blanchard, the American minister to Haiti, were widely at variance. As a result Mr. Bailly-Blanchard was summoned to Washington and is here now.

FORTY HAITIENS DIE IN BATTLE WITH AMERICANS

Ten Soldiers Are Wounded in Attack by Rebels Against U. S. Forces Two Miles From Cape Haitien

(Associated Press).

CAPE HAITIEN, Sept. 26—In an attack by Haitien rebels on an American force about two miles from Cape Haitien, forty Haitiens were killed. Ten Americans were wounded.

The rebels have refused to disarm and the Americans are marching on Haut Du Cap, in the plain of the north.

HAITIEN LEADER IS SENT TO QUIET GONAIVES UNREST

WASHINGTON, Sept. 8.—Rear Admiral Caperton reported to the Navy Department tonight that General Rameau, a Haitien leader of infantry, had been sent to Gonaives to quiet unrest reported there.

Arrangements for administering Haiti's customs are being carried forward rapidly. Today's dispatch announced the designation of Past Assistant Paymasters McMillen and Snyder as collectors at Petitgoaive and Miragoane, respectively.

No Protectorate for Hayti

The unexpected action of the French, German and Italian Governments has prevented the establishment in Hayti, by the United States, of a fiscal protectorate like that which has existed in Santo Domingo for several years past. Our Government withheld recognition from the new Government of General Guillaume Sam, Hayti's latest successful revolutionist leader, hoping that he would accept the proposed protectorate. The project involved use by the United States of Mole St. Nicholas as a naval station. It is said that four-fifths of the Panama Canal traffic passes within a short distance of this port. Hayti was bankrupt and provision had been made for assisting her in negotiating a loan in New York. It was thought that European nations, being now engaged in war, would take no interest in Haytian affairs.

But France recognized General Sam's Government, and was followed in this by Germany and Italy. France also procured for Hayti a loan of $1,000,000, with promise of more. The resident ministers of France and Germany are said to have acted in harmony. All this leaves no ground for hope that there will be an American fiscal protectorate. It is reported that opposition to the project was increased in Hayti by the publication of Secretary Bryan's letter to the American collector in Santo Domingo, seeking places for "deserving Democrats" in the customs service there.

There is great disappointment in Nicaragua because our Senate failed to ratify the treaty under the terms of which that country was to receive $3,000,000. The American Collector-General of Customs, Mr. Ham, now in the United States, says that the money is sorely needed because Nicaragua is bankrupt. Her revenues have recently declined, and her interests have suffered by reason of the war.

OUR APT PUPILS.

Not a prejudiced Cuban, but our United States consul general at Havana, reports that Havana is not only free from yellow and other fevers, but from mosquitoes and even from flies. Nothing but eternal vigilance in eliminating all breeding sources has done it. And the Cubans learned how to exercise and apply that vigilance from our sanitary engineers.

Eighteen years seems a short time, and it's less than that since there was a different condition of things in Havana. The worst thing that ailed the city and the country, to be sure, was Spanish rule, but it was made materially worse by the scourge of yellow and malarial and typhoid fever, which we now know were engendered by the filth and flies and mosquitoes of Havana and its neighborhood. We do not need to be reminded how we first cleaned out the Spaniards, and then taught the Cubans, along with self government, how to clean out the causes of the fever.

So Havana, a city in what we used to call a malarial country, a city whose inhabitants might be presumed to be less sensitive to sanitary niceties than are we, is free from disease, flies and mosquitoes, while we still suffer the threefold affliction. This reflects favorably on the Cubans as apt pupils. We know so much more than our teachers that we are not content to make such sacrifices and exercise such vigilance as have delivered the people of Cuba from their greatest enemies. And when we look over our mortuary statistics, we cannot deny that we have some incentive to do what they have done.

ISLAND NEGROES WANT TO VOTE.

Representative of Native Population of Danish West Indies Lodges Protest.

Correspondence of the Associated Press.

Copenhagen, May 15.—Hamilton Jackson, a negro representative of the native population in the Danish West Indies, has arrived in Copenhagen and conferred with the minister of finance and other government officials concerning grievances his constituents have against L. C. Helweg-Larsen, present governor of the islands, and his administration. Jackson urged that the negroes be permitted to vote, as almost every negro under 36 years of age is now able to read and write. He also urged improvement in the sanitary conditions and changes in the economic condition. The negroes asked through Jackson for the privilege of printing their own newspaper and holding public meetings.

The minister of finance gave Jackson an attentive hearing, and a state conference has been arranged for a date in June, when the governor, who is now on his way home, will discuss the insular situation with other officials. Jackson and his followers contend that another governor and a radical reform administration must be provided which is in sympathy with the progressive native population before the unrest can be [illegible].